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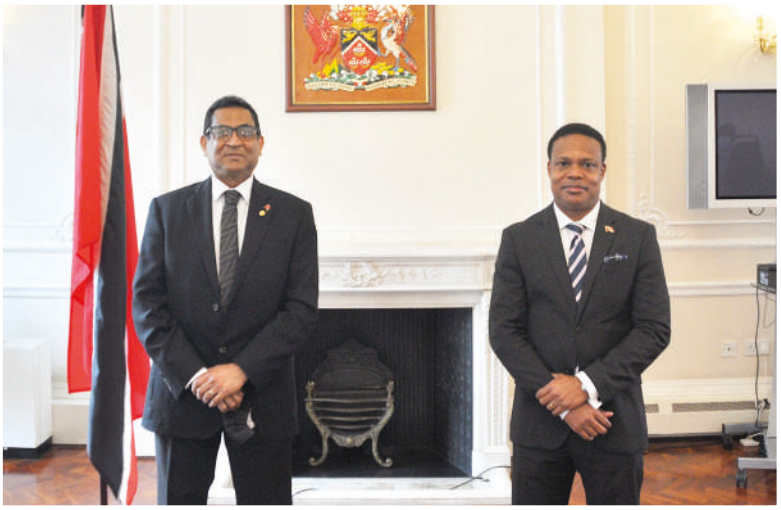

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HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKES MEETS WITH HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AT PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT WINDSOR CASTLE

Above: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago chat at Windsor Castle. **At right:** Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes presented Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with gift from the People of Trinidad and Tobago, **Bottom right:** Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes observes the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra, **Below:** Trinidad and Tobago gift - 'Woman on the Bass'. **Photo courtesy Office of the President (OTP).**

On the invitation of the Platinum Jubilee Celebration Committee, Trinidad and Tobago's President recently attended the Royal Windsor Horse Show's presentation in honour of the Queen's Jubilee, which also featured a performance from the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) Steel Orchestra.

At the request of Her Majesty The Queen, the TTDF Steel Orchestra performed at a private rehearsal at Windsor Castle.

At the Castle, President Weekes met with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and presented the Monarch with a gift from the people of Trinidad and Tobago in commemoration of her

Platinum Jubilee. The gift, 'Woman on the Bass', was designed and produced by artist Gillian Bishop.

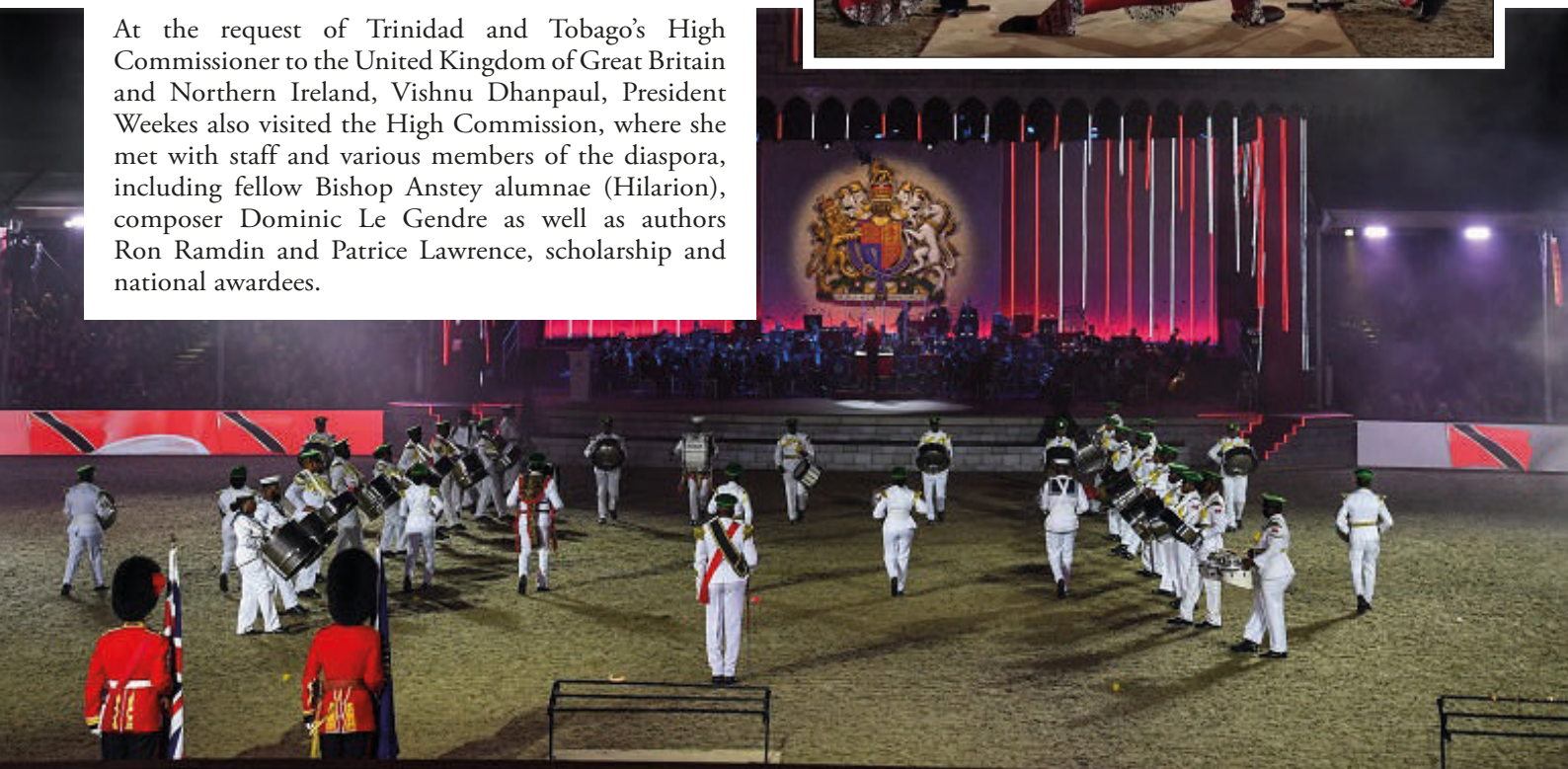
The following evening, President Weekes joined Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and other dignitaries in attending the final night of the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

The equestrian extravaganza, entitled A Gallop Through History, featured 500 horses and over a thousand performers and kicked off celebrations marking Her Majesty's 70-year reign.

The TTDF Steel Orchestra's performance at the show was warmly received by Her Majesty.

At the request of Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vishnu Dhanpaul, President Weekes also visited the High Commission, where she met with staff and various members of the diaspora, including fellow Bishop Anstey alumnae (Hilarion), composer Dominic Le Gendre as well as authors Ron Ramdin and Patrice Lawrence, scholarship and national awardees.

Above: TTDF Steel Orchestra at Gatwick Airport in London, **Below:** limbo dancers from the TTDF Steel Orchestra performing the fire limbo. **Photo: ITV. At Bottom:** TTDF Steel Orchestra perfoming at Royal Windsor Horse Show. **Photo: OTP.**



THE HONOURABLE DR. KEITH ROWLEY, PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NATIONAL STATEMENT TO WORLD LEADERS' SUMMIT AT COP 26

Above: Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at COP26 World Leaders Summit of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference at the SEC, Glasgow. **Below:** Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson greets Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Keith Rowley. **Photos: OPM.**

On Monday 1st, November 2021, Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, at the invitation of the Honourable Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britian Boris Johnson, joined heads of Government from around the globe for the World Leaders Summit at the UN Climate Change Conference, COP 26, in Glasgow, Scotland.

The following is the national statement delivered by Prime Minister Keith Rowley at the World Leaders' Summit:

Mr. President, Your Excellencies

Heads of Government,

We gather today at a pivotal point in the history of humanity, in a further attempt to deepen commitment and determination to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The August 2021 report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change has presented a sobering outlook, and brought into focus the severe shortfall in closing the emissions gap. Any temperature increase beyond the 1.5 degrees Celsius level will have long-term and permanent consequences, particularly for small countries and economies such as Trinidad and Tobago. The only solution therefore, is to increase collective ambition.

According to the World Energy Outlook, in order for the world to shift from our current unsustainable path, we need to: focus on driving renewable and sustainable electrification, improving efficiency, reducing methane emissions and turbocharging innovation. We also need to implement strategies to unlock capital flows in support of energy transitions and ensure reliability and affordability.

Mr. President, while mitigation ambition is driven by the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal, the global goal on adaptation has failed to achieve a commensurate level of attention and action. At COP26, we must ensure that we have an outcome that helps to raise adaptation, ambition and action. Establishing a specific work programme after COP26, to define the details for the global goal on adaptation, will be key.

Trinidad and Tobago is a small island developing state already experiencing the effects of climate change. Loss and damage are already clear in the aggressive erosion of our coastline and the bleaching of our coral reefs. Tackling loss and damage must remain a critical and core issue of any global climate action framework.

We are increasingly concerned about our ability to address this issue given the well-known difficulty in accessing financing for such projects. We need funds like the Green Climate Fund to establish specific streams for loss and damage finance to ensure that this is prioritised in the same way as mitigation and adaptation. Further, there must be an equitable balance between public finance for mitigation and adaptation.

COP26 will be a critical point at which we can assess whether our climate finance flows are headed in the right direction. In this regard, the US announcement that it would double its climate finance support, is particularly inspiring. This is the type of bold action all donor countries need to consider in the weeks ahead. The mobilization of private finance will also be critical for securing the urgently needed investment, particularly for the transformation of our energy sectors.

Mr. President, we must complete the work to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework. Even as a small country with limited resources, we will make every effort to report to the required standard, with some assistance, of course. We expect others to do the same. This is the deal we made in Paris. We cannot go back on it now.

Mr. President,

As an economy largely based on oil and gas and petrochemicals, we in Trinidad and Tobago recognise our responsibility in transitioning, over reasonable and manageable time, to net zero. We have set very ambitious targets aimed at diversifying our economy.

We have embarked upon ambitious plans to reduce emissions and build climate resilience, but we will need help. These measures include the following:

We are in the process of establishing the largest utility-scale solar renewable energy project in the Caribbean with a capacity of 112 megawatts, accounting for 10% of our power needs, and we plan to increase this complement to 30% by 2030;

We have developed an e-mobility policy and we are already implementing measures to phase-in electric vehicles.

We recognise the need to address the socio-economic issues associated with the energy transition and have developed a Just Transition of the Workforce Policy aimed at reskilling, retooling and developing new capacity for a low-carbon economy;

We are pursuing measures to facilitate investment in green hydrogen to provide green feedstock to our vibrant petrochemical industry.

We intend to explore the use of industry-generated CO_2 in possible carbon sequestration projects.

Mr. President, COP26 has created great expectations and heightened hopes for climate ambition for Trinidad and Tobago. This ambition includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing much-needed climate finance to enable vulnerable countries to adapt to climate impacts and assist in transforming their economies to more sustainable, low-carbon paths.

Beyond the rhetoric and pledges, every country needs to be serious about urgent action in this decade. Trinidad and Tobago is committed to working with all countries in the multilateral framework to ensure a safe and secure world for those yet to be born. It is my sincere hope that we will all be able to look back at COP 26, and the commitments and progress made here in Glasgow, as key steps towards a healthier salvageable planet Earth.

Let's work for the survival, of ours and all species. Let's not choose extinction!

Mr President, I thank you.

PRIME MINISTER ROWLEY IN ENERGY TALKS WITH BP

Pictured: (L-R) Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister the Honourable Stuart Young, BP's Chief Executive Officer, Bernard Looney, Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley and BP Trinidad and Tobago (BPTT) Claire Fitzpatrick. **Photo: OPM**

Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley met with BP's Chief Executive Officer, Bernard Looney at the company's headquarters in London on Thursday 04 November, 2021.

Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister the Hon Stuart Young and Regional President, BP Trinidad and Tobago (BPTT) Claire Fitzpatrick were in attendance.

During the two-hour meeting, Prime Minister Rowley raised a number of matters for discussion related to the international conversation surrounding the future of the industry.

Mr Looney gave an assurance of BP's continued commitment to Trinidad and Tobago and discussed the company's philosophy in an evolving global energy sector. He said that Trinidad and Tobago will continue to play an important role in BP's asset portfolio.

Talks also focused on future gas exploration, production and the restructuring of Atlantic LNG.

The parties have also agreed to prioritise the completion of the 112.2 MW solar projects which are a joint venture between BP, Shell and Lightsource BP.

Executive Vice President Regions, Cities and Solutions, William Lin, Executive Vice President, Gas and Low Carbon Energy, Anja-Isabel Dotzenrath and Executive Vice President, Production and Operations, Gordon Birrell were also present at the meeting.

PRIME MINISTER ROWLEY MEETS WITH HIGH-LEVEL TEAM FROM SHELL

Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley met with Shell's senior executives at the energy company's office in London on Thursday 04 November, 2021. Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister the Hon Stuart Young and Eugene Okpere, Senior Vice President and Country Chair of Shell Trinidad and Tobago were present for the meeting.

Discussions focused on key growth projects and potential collaboration opportunities aimed at furthering Trinidad and Tobago's renewable energy goals.

Wael Sawan, Shell's newly-appointed Director of Integrated Gas, Renewables and Energy Solutions, led a presentation on the company's energy transition

strategy. He focused on the possibilities of carbon emission reduction in Trinidad and Tobago whilst working on the continued production of natural gas which is recognised as a greener, cleaner fuel source.

Sawan stated that Shell remained committed to securing Trinidad and Tobago's energy future and was excited to play a leading role in unlocking the country's energy transition potential and building their portfolio in Trinidad and Tobago.

Talks also centred on the recent Cabinet approval of the Production Sharing Contract Amendment (PSC) for the Manatee gas field which was a historic development for Trinidad and Tobago. The Manatee gas field would be a significant gas production project and one of the largest single investments in Trinidad and Tobago in decades. The parties would sign the Manatee PSC in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2021.

The commercial restructuring of Atlantic LNG was included on the agenda. There were also discussions surrounding the issues raised at the recent COP26 climate change conference and a commitment was given by the Government to finalise the details related to the utility-scale solar project to be developed by a consortium comprising Shell, BP and Lightsource bp.

The Shell team at the meeting included, De La Rey Venter, Executive Vice President of Shell's LNG business for the Western hemisphere; Ed Daniels, Executive Vice President, Strategy, Portfolio & Sustainability; and Anders Ekvall, Business Opportunity Manager.

Pictured: Wael Sawan, Shell's newly-appointed Director of Integrated Gas, Renewables and Energy Solutions chats with Prime Minister Dr. the Hon Keith Rowley. Looking on are Minister of Energy and Energy Industries the Hon Stuart Young and De La Rey Venter, Executive Vice President of Shell's LNG business for the Western hemisphere.

NATIONAL AWARDS 2020/21

After a two year delay, the National Award 2020 and 2021 took place on Monday 7 March and Tuesday 8 March 2022, respectively. Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, O.R.T.T., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, hosted both investitures at The President's House in Port of Spain.

The National Awards of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledge the involvement of citizens and non-nationals who have had a significant and positive impact on the twin island Republic. The awards which were instituted in 1969 had been presented yearly in five categories, they are: The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (which replaced the Trinity Cross as the Highest Award which was last awarded in 2005), The Chaconia Medal, The Humming Bird Medal, The Public Servants' Medal of Merit and The Medal for the Development of Women.

2020

NAME	POSITION	IN THE SPHERE OF:
ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - The highest award in TnT for distinguished and outstanding service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Dr Wayne Frederick	Surgeon and President of Howard University in Washington	Medicine and Education
CHACONIA MEDAL (GOLD) - For Long and Meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Justice Rolston Nelson (Retired)	Former Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice	Law and Business
Professor Stephan Gift	Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus	Electrical Engineering and Engineering Science
Orville London	Former High Commissioner and Former School Principal	Education and Public Service
Dr Emanuel Hosein	Medical Practitioner	Empowerment of Disabled People
Mr. Errol Ince	Artist	Music and Culture
Dr Lakshmi Seeterram	Attorney-at-Law	Education and Culture
Pundit Hari Prasad (Posthumously)	Hindu Priest/Pundit	Religion, Culture and Social Service.

CHACONIA MEDAL (SILVER) - For Long and Meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mr. Edgar Vidale	Former Coach of The National Football Team	Sport and Community Service
Asgar Ali	Chairman Weldfab	Business
Ms Maureen Clement (Retired)	Educator/Musician	Community Service and Prison Reform
HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (GOLD) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Dr. Lester Goetz	Urologist	Medicine
Ms Gillian Bishop	Jeweller/Designer	Arts and Culture
Mr. Dominic Kalipersad,	Journalist	Journalism
Mr. Reeanna Harrilal	Former Broadcast Journalist and Founder of Lupus Learning Resource Center	Community Service/Education and Empowerment
Mr. Neil Guiseppi (Retired)	Former managing Director of Trinidad Broadcasting Company	Music and Culture
Mrs Kari Polanyi Levitt (Retired)	Professor Emerita	Economics and Education
Mr. Ainsley Mark (Posthumously)	Former Professor Emeritus of Geophysics University of Leicester	Academics
HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (SILVER) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Dr. Indrawatee Haraksingh	University Lecturer	Education
Mr. Gregory Medina	Artist/Designer	Arts/Costume Design
Mr. Oliver Chapman	Music Composer, Producer and Singer	Music and Culture
Mr. Christopher Santos	Artist/Designer	Art/Costume Design
Sister Kawalee Narinesingh	Community Service Provider	Community Service/Rehabilitation of Inmates
Mr. Edwin "Crazy" Ayoung	Calypsonian/Songwriter	Music and Culture
Mr. Clifton "Mighty Bomber" Ryan	Calypsonian/Songwriter	Music and Culture
HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (BRONZE)) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mr. Charles Mitchell (Retired)	Former Superintendant of Police	Gallantry
THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (GOLD) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Herwald Elder	Principal/Lecturer and Founder of Elder's Classes	Education
Carlisle Harris	Former Vice Principal of John Donaldson Technical Institute	Culture/Education
Girdharry Seerattansingh (Retired)	Former Principal of San Francique Hindu School	Education
Dr. Verleen Bobb-Lewis (Retired)	Former School Supervisor	Education
Wilma Collins	Radiographer/Lecturer	Radiology and Health Sciences
Sr Marie-Therese Rétout	Religious Sister and Nun	Public Service, Communications and Child Development
Elton Nelson (Posthumously)	Former Principal	Education

MEDAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (GOLD) - For Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Women's Rights and Issues in Trinidad and Tobago		
Ms Terry Ince	Development Consultant	Development of Women's Rights

Top left: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes with investige Hummingbird Medal Silver to Dr. Indra Haraksingh. **Centre:** Dr Wayne Frederick, recipient of Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Awardee is congratulated by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley. **At right:** Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes with Ms Terry Ince recipient of the Medal for the Development of Women Gold and Mr Orville London, recipient of the Chaconia Medal Gold. **Photos: OTP**

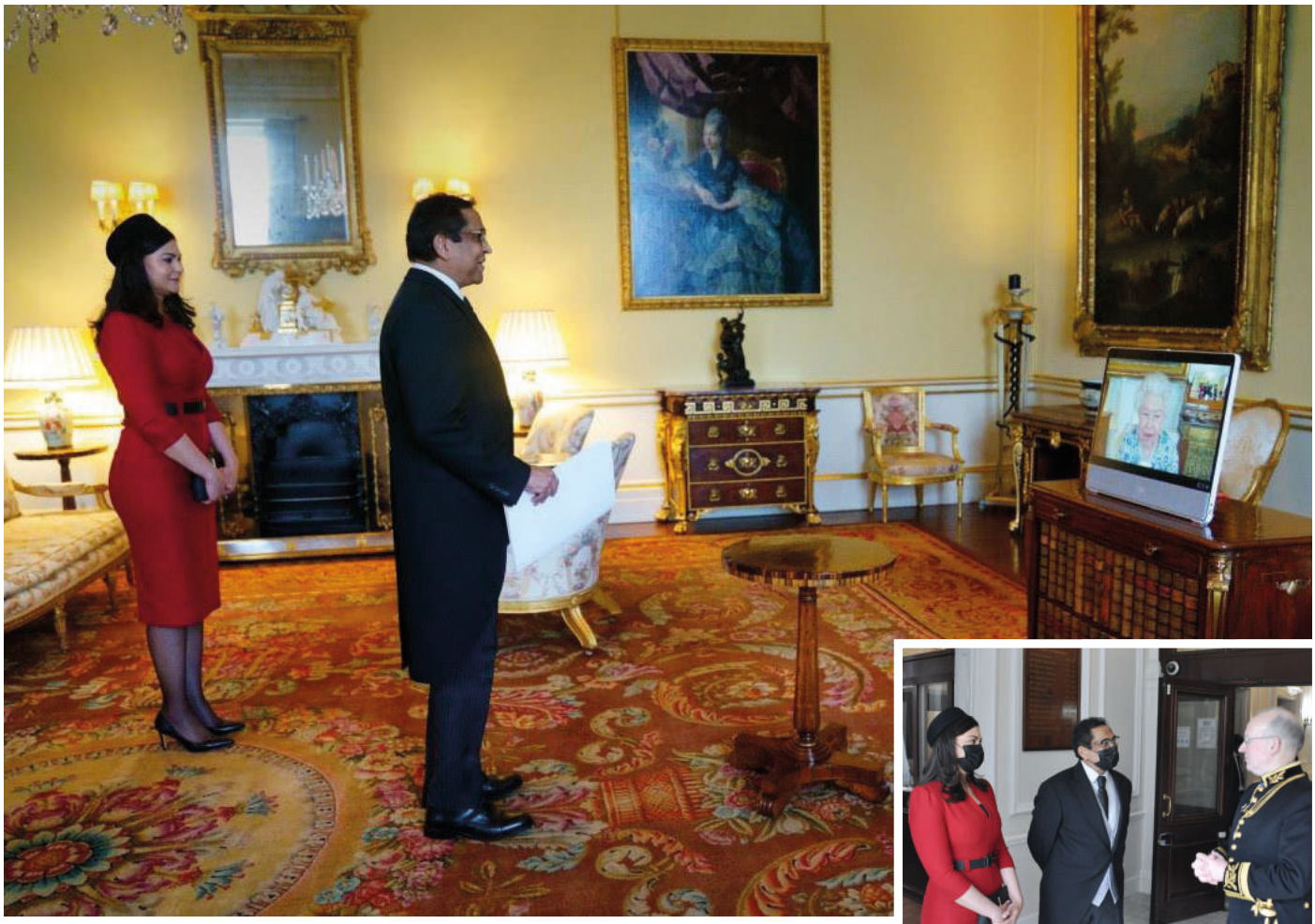
2021

NAME	POSITION	IN THE SPHERE OF:
CHACONIA MEDAL (GOLD) - For Long and Meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Ms Beverly King	Peer Educator and Master Trainer	Community Work, Health Education, Service to persons living with HIV
Mr. Dale McLeod	Managing Director	Business
Mr. Jerry Hospedales	Economist	Economic Advisor Development
Ms Sharon Christopher	Attorney-at-Law, Leadership Development Coach and Motivational Speaker	Business, Banking and Finance
Professor Winston Mellowes	Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering	Education
CHACONIA MEDAL (SILVER) - For Long and Meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mr. McDonald Greene	Managing Director	Business
HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (GOLD) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mrs Deborah Jean-Baptiste-Samuel	Attorney-at-Law	Youth Development
Mr. Austin Lyons "Superblue"	Calypsonian/ Songwriter	Music and Culture
Mr. Bhawani Persad	Retiree	Community Service in the Blind and Visually Impaired/Disabled Community
Mr. John Ernest Ferreira	Musician, Composer	Culture and Arts
Mr. Michael Oliver Boothman	Musician, Composer, Arranger, Producer, Arts Musical Director and Band Leader	Culture
Maulana Mushtaq Ahmed Sulaimani (Posthumously)	Muslim Leader/ Imam	Community Service

HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (SILVER) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mr.. Lincoln Phillips	Football Coach	Sport
Mr. Allan Fortune "Brother Mudada"	Calypsonian/ Songwriter	Music and Culture
Sister Annetta Alexander (Retired)	Nun / School Principal	Education and Guiding
Mr. Franz Lambkin "Delamo"	Retiree	Music and Culture
Mr. Johnson King "Johnny King"	Calypsonian/ Songwriter	Music and Culture
Mr. Lennox Toussaint	Deacon	Culture
Mr. Morel Peters "King Luta"	Calypsonian/ Songwriter	Music and Culture
HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (BRONZE) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mr. Stephen Marcano (Posthumously)	Fire Officer	Gallantry
PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (GOLD)		
Ms Gillian Macintyre (Retired)	Permanent Secretary	Public Service
Captain Kent Moore (Posthumously)	National Security	Public Service
Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul	Permanent Secretary	Public Service
PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (SILVER)		
Mr. Alick Charles (Retired)	Police Inspector	Public/Community Service
MEDAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (GOLD)		
Ms Gaietry Pargass	Senior Legal Adviser	Women and Children Rights
Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan	Moderator of the Religion, Social Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago and Minister of Religion	Religion and Activism
MEDAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (GOLD) - For Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Women's Rights and Issues in Trinidad and Tobago		
Ms Sherna Alexander-Benjamin	Interpersonal Violence Consultant	Development of Prevention and Peace Women and Girls Education

Top left: HE Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT with (L-R) Ms Gillian Macintyre (recipient of Public Service Medal of Merit Gold), Mr. Alick Charles (recipient of Public Service Medal of Merit Silver), Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul (on behalf HE Vishnu Dhanpaul recipient of Public Service Medal of Merit Gold) and Ms Reah Moore (on behalf of Captain Kent Moore (posthumously) recipient of Public Service Medal of Merit Gold. **Middle:** HE Paula-Mae Weekes presents the Chaconia Medal (Gold) to Ms Beverly King. **Top right:** Humming Medal Gold Awardees. (L-R) Mr. Morel "King Luta" Peters, Mr. Franz "Delamo" Lambkin, Mr. Johnson "Johnny King" King, Mr. Allan "Brother Mudada" Fortune and Mr. Austin "Superblue" Lyon. **Photos: OTP**

PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN BUCKINHAM PALACE



Top: His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul presenting his Letters of Credence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II whilst Mrs. Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul looks on. **Photo: PA Images. At right:** His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, Mrs Geofroy-Dhanpaul speaking with Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps Alistair Harrison CMG CVO. **At Left:** His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul speaking with Mrs. Victoria Busby OBE, Director Protocol and Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

On Thursday 3rd March 2022, His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, presented Letters of Credence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, accrediting him as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The presentation took place via video link during a private audience at Buckingham Palace, London.

Prior to the presentation, His Excellency and Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps Alistair Harrison CMG CVO held a brief meeting and spoke of the close diplomatic ties that exist between Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kindgom of Great Britian.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II conducted virtual audiences from Windsor Castle, where she continues to reside and work. During the virtual meeting High Commissioner Dhanpaul introduced his spouse Mrs. Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul and they engaged in a brief conversation with Her Majesty.

At the end of the Presentation Ceremony, High Commissioner Dhanpaul and Mrs Geofroy-Dhanpaul signed Her Majesty's Visitors' Book.

INTRODUCING HIS EXCELLENCY VISHNU DHANPAUL

EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S INTERVIEW WITH
DIPLOMAT MAZAGINE NEWSLETTER 20 MAY 2022 | DIPLOMATMAGAZINE.COM

Trinidad and Tobago's new High Commissioner His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul came to the UK with his wife in October 2021, which has been quite a change from the sandy beaches and blue waters of Trinidad and Tobago. "Initially, I was leaving the house in the dark and getting home in the dark, which was very strange. But I lived in Washington DC for six years, so it was not too much of a culture shock."

High Commissioner Dhanpaul followed his father into public service. "It has been an interesting, intellectually stimulating, and varied career. I have been seconded to various agencies including the World Bank and the IMF, and spent a few months at our Embassy in Washington, as well as serving on several state boards." Indeed, he was President of the Tourism and Industrial Development Company and the Tourism Development Company. "All these roles have helped me on the path to where I am today." He comes from a position as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, a job that has allowed him "to see things a little differently and offered me a wider outlook on life and the world."

Although he admits he was surprised to get the call about his latest appointment, he believes the move to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs has been "a natural fit. Any call I receive to serve my country is a good call for me, and I would never say no. I'm fiercely patriotic." Indeed, one of the most memorable days of his career was when he received a Public Service Medal of Merit Gold for his service to Trinidad and Tobago.

His stint at the Ministry of Finance has provided him with "a good feel for how the economy functions, and what can continue to drive the economy. Part of my mandate is to generate opportunities for trade and investment back in Trinidad and Tobago. We have a long history of British entrepreneurs

Pictured: His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul

and large Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), such as BP, which has a huge presence in Trinidad and Tobago". He'd also like to generate FDI outside the energy sector to try and drive some employment creation, such as in the tourism, manufacturing and financial services sectors. ("To be clear," he clarifies, "this is not the creation of an offshore financial centre. We don't want to be lumped in that category at all.") Whilst he is High Commissioner in the UK, he is also accredited to Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

Following Brexit, High Commissioner Dhanpaul notes that CARIFORUM (Caricom countries and the Dominican Republic) now have economic partnership agreements with both the EU and UK. "We have been great

Pictured: His Excellency Dhanpaul virtual meeting with Mrs Victoria Busby OBE, Director Protocol and Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

partners with the UK over the years. Having opened on Independence Day, August 31, 1962, the High Commission has now been here for 60 years! So, later this year we look forward to celebrating 60 years of Independence and 60 years in the UK!"

In terms of climate diplomacy, he quotes his Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley's speech at COP26: "We are in the process of establishing the largest utility-scale solar renewable energy project in the Caribbean. Secondly, we are developing an e-mobility policy and we are already implementing measures to phase in electric vehicles. We recognise the need to address the socio-economic issues associated with the energy transition and have developed a 'Just Transition of the Workforce Policy' aimed at reskilling, retooling and developing new capacity for a low carbon economy. We are pursuing measures to facilitate investment in green hydrogen to provide green feedstock to our vibrant petrochemical industry. We intend to explore the use of industry-generated CO2 in possible carbon sequestration projects… As an economy largely based on oil and gas and petrochemicals, we in Trinidad and Tobago recognise our responsibility in transitioning, over reasonable and manageable time, to net zero. We have set very ambitious targets aimed at diversifying our economy."
With regards to the health pandemic, the High Commissioner notes that his government "deserves some kudos: they continued to pay the entire public service throughout lockdown. Essentially the government had to borrow to pay public servants even when they were at home. It's an incredible thing for a developing country to be able to do." He continues, "Most of our restrictions have been lifted, and all flights have resumed to beautiful Trinidad and Tobago, but we have kept the mandate to wear masks. We believe this is key – especially on public transport."

Although things look brighter on the COVID front, High Commissioner Dhanpaul notes that his country still has some major diplomatic challenges. "The fact that we have been blacklisted by the EU and the Global Forum is an economic and legislative challenge. They have classified Trinidad and Tobago as an offshore financial centre and a tax haven, which has created problems for our banking system." He stressed again that Trinidad and Tobago is not an off-shore financial centre.

To read full article on His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul in The Diplomat Magazine, please visit:

https://diplomatmagazine.com/heads-of-mission/north-america/trinidad-and-tobago/

SHELL TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MEETS HIGH COMMISSIONER DHANPAUL

Mr. Eugene Okpere, Senior Vice President and Country Chairman and Mrs Candice Clarke-Salloum, Manager of Corporate Relations for Shell Trinidad and Tobago, paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, on Friday 5th November 2021.

Middle: Mr. Eugene Okpere, Senior Vice President and Country Chair, Shell Trinidad and Tobago signs the guestbook with Mrs. Candice Clarke-Salloum, Manager of Corporate Relations for Shell Trinidad and Tobago.

At right: High Commissioner Dhanpaul and Mr. Eugene Okpere, Senior Vice President and Country Chair, Shell Trinidad and Tobago.

THE MISSION WELCOMES NEW IMMIGRATION ATTACHÉ, FINANCIAL ATTACHÉ AND SECOND SECRETARY

On Friday 29th November 2019, the High Commission welcomed a new Immigration Attaché, Ms Helena Jackson. Ms Jackson, Immigratoin Officer IV heads heads the Passport and Immigration Department at the High Commission. Mrs Jackson has over 32 years experience in the Public Service. She has worked in various ministries including Ministry of Works, Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Finance. She has brought a wealth of information and expertise in immigration services and customer relations to the High Commission.

In early December 2021, Mrs Tessa Guiseppi-Legier, an Accounts Executive with many years experience, including at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations in New York, joined the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London as Financial Attaché.

In January 2022, Ms Kimberly Ibrahim joined the High Commission, London as Second Secretary. Ms Ibrahim, a former national scholar and graduate in law, dispute resolution, international relations and business administration brings to the Mission over a decade's worth of experience in the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. Ms Ibrahim also has oversight of the Consular Afffairs and Student Services Divison.

The High Commission warmly welcomes Ms Helena Jackson, Mrs Tessa Guiseppi-Legier and Ms Kimberly Ibrahim and is confident their stewardship will lead to the enhanced capacity of each department and their teams.

We also bid farewell to Ms Darcyl Legall (Second Secretary) and Mrs Alicia Acres-Youksee (Immigration Attaché). We thank them for their service and wish them both the very best in their future endeavours!

Top: Ms Helena Jackson, Immigration Attaché, **Below:** Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary.

VIRTUAL NATIONALS MEETING – JANUARY 2022

Pictured: High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul welcoming presenters and nationals to the inaugural Virtual Nationals Meeting.

On Thursday 27th January 2022, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London hosted its first Virtual Nationals Meeting.

His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, Chair of the Meeting, gave the Welcoming Address which included information about himself and his diaspora-focused policies. He also spoke about changes made at the High Commission, which included a renewed effort toward service delivery to Trinidad and Tobago's diaspora community as well as to its external stakeholders. In this regard, the High Commissioner advised of the effective methods by which nationals can engage with the Mission. He re-iterated the Mission's ethos and principles, which included meting out equal treatment and respect to all seeking the assistance of the High Commission.

There were presentations by Immigration Attaché Helena Jackson, Ministry of National Security, on the Immigration Services offered to the Diaspora and Dr. Sabeeta Bidasie-Singh, CEO Cardinal Services, LLC on FashionTT's Fashion Virtual Trade Mission and Exhibition. Mr. Haseeb Mohammed, Consular Officer, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, was also on hand to answer questions relating to consular affairs.

Ambassador Colin Connelly from the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in Belgium, was also invited to say a few words. He thanked High Commissioner Dhanpaul the invitation and advised that the presentations had been extremely informative. He also saluted the awardees receiving accolades from Her Majesty The Queen serving in different capacities in the United Kingdom and referenced them as true diplomats of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Question and Answer session which followed, dealt with issues relating to passport enquiries. Additionally, Ms Aisha Stewart, Project Lead at FashionTT answered questions on programmes for designers. and Ms Heather Jones, fashion designer, shared her experience working with the virtual fashion show.

Mrs Beverley Awonaya from the Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Division, expatiated on the notable conferment of awards from Her Majesty The Queen for the years 2021 - 2022. These distinguished awardees included the following persons:

- **Patrice Lawrence awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)** for her services to Literature in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 List
- **Arlene Wellman awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)** for her services to Nursing during Covid-19 in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 List
- **Squadron Leader Kyle Roachford awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)** for his appointment to the Military Division in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021 List
- **Greta Mendez awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)** for her services to Dance in Her Majesty The Queen's New Year Honours 2021 List
- **Horace Ove awarded Knight Bachelor** for his services to Media in the 2022 New Year's Honours List.
- **Isabella Parasram awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)** for Political and Public Service in the 2022 New Year's Honours List.

The meeting ended with gratitude expressed to attendees for their particiaption and with a commitment made by the High Commissioner to have the meeting on a quarterly basis. High Commissioner Dhanpaul also said that at the next meeting trade and investment in Trinidad and Tobago would be discussed with presentations from Investt, Exportt, Ministry of Trade and the Exim Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. He emphasised these targeted areas would drive Trinidad and Tobago's economy forward with energy and non-energy sectors.

The next Nationals Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th August, 2022.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HOSTS BUSINESS FORUM AND NATIONAL DAY AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

H.E. VISHNU DHANPAUL
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
EXPO 2020

1) A cultural contingent comprising members of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra, the National Theatre Arts Company and the National Philharmonic Orchestra performed at the Trinidad and Tobago National Day at the Expo. **2)** A cross section of the dignataries standing for the national anthem of Trinidad and Tobago. **3)** High Commissioner Dhanpaul delivered remarks at the Trinidad and Tobago National Day at the Expo. **Photos: Expo 2020 Dubai. 4)** InvesTT and exporTT co-hosted Business Forum in progress, **5)** Trinidad and Tobago Pavallion. **Photos: InvesTT.**

On Wednesday 9th March, 2022, His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland led this country's delegation at Trinidad and Tobago's Business Forum and National Day at Expo 2020, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The World Expo 2020 Dubai, themed, 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', is one of the world's most renowned and influential international events with over one hundred and ninety (190) participating countries and millions of visitors from around the world attending the event.

The Expo which began in October, 2021, concluded on March 31, 2022. At the Expo, Trinidad and Tobago hosted a Business Forum on March 10, 2022 to promote the country as a premier business, trade and investment destination. The Forum which was a collaborative effort between exporTT and invesTT highlighted the country's competitive advantages, attractive investment climate and also featured business and investment opportunities in the manufacturing, energy and tourism sectors. Additionally, opportunities for new bilateral tourism agreements and air services agreements were explored.

Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry, delivered a virtual feature address and was supported by in-person presentations by Senior Officials of invesTT Limited, exporTT Limited, Tobago House of Assembly, Trinidad Tourism Limited and the Tobago Tourism Agency. Participants at the Forum included countries targeted for foreign investments and trade, as well as private sector companies with strategic interest in doing business with Trinidad and Tobago.

Underscoring the benefits of Trinidad and Tobago's participation at Expo 2020, Minister Gopee-Scoon noted that the country's presence at the Expo presented an ideal opportunity to showcase to the world Trinidad and Tobago's position as a viable destination for business, investment and trade, while also utilising the opportunity to enhance market access to existing and new international markets. In addition to the Business Forum, Trinidad and Tobago hosted its National Day at the Expo on March 11, 2022. The National Day provided visitors with the opportunity to experience participating countries' music, dance, drama, and culture. Trinidad and Tobago's National Day highlighted our culture, creativity and diversity through performances of Steelpan, Chutney, Calypso and Parang and also showcased a glimpse of our festivals, such as Carnival, Christmas and Ramleela. A cultural contingent comprising of twelve (12) members of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra

(NSSO), the National Theatre Arts Company (NTAC) and the National Philharmonic Orchestra (NPO) performed at the event. Leading chutney artiste Nishard Mayrhoo and popular soca artiste Erphaan Alves also performed at the event.

The Trinidad and Tobago Pavilion was among the 192 installed at the Expo. ExporTT, a State Agency of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, managed the Trinidad and Tobago pavilion under the theme "Experience the Energy, Creativity and Diversity that is uniquely Trinidad and Tobago: Many Hearts, Many Voices, One Vision." The Pavilion featured several of Trinidad and Tobago locally manufactured products such as rums, aromatic bitters, chocolates, fine flavoured cocoa chocolates, sauces and beverages as well as the country's national instrument and virtual reality tours of popular tourism destinations in Trinidad and Tobago. The Pavilion also featured Tobago's tourism sector, where the island's potential as an extraordinary eco-tourism destination was marketed. A variety of local artisan jewellery, craft items and Tobago-branded souvenirs were also on display.

Other members of the delegation included Deputy Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), Watson Duke, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Simone Thorne-Mora Quinones – Head of the Cultural Contingent; Senior Technical Adviser in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Carla Cupid; Chairman of Tourism Trinidad Limited, Clifford Hamilton; General Manager, exporTT, Dhanraj Harrypersad; Vice President, Investments, invesTT, Pramilla Ramdahani; and Chief Executive Officer of Tobago Tourism Agency, Louis Lewis.

WATCH THE VIDEO | https://bit.ly/Expo2020_TTHC

WANIS INTERNATIONAL FOODS FACILITIES TOUR

Pictured: Backrow L-R: Mr George Phillips, Commercial Director, Wanis, Mr. Tim Campbell MBE, Social Enterprise Ambassador and winner of the first series of The Apprentice, Mr.. Sanjay Wadhwani, Managing Director, Wanis, Mr. Frank Marimo, Sainsbury's Buyer for World Foods, Mr. Bello Jaye, Trade Officer, Nigeria High Commission, Mr. Ayo Akinfe, Chairman, CANUK Nigerian Diaspora group, Mr. Paul Harrison, Head of Community, Wanis, Mr. Manish Tiwari, CEO "Here And Now" Media Agency, Mr. Vas Sideras, Area Manager, Wanis. Seated L-R: Mr. Papa Kow Bertels, Head of Trade, Ghana High Commission, His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, High Commissioner for Jamaica, His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Alistair Soyode, Founder of BEN TV.

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul together with a number of fellow diplomats and guests visited the Wanis International Foods warehouse located in Leyton, London, on March 16th, 2022. The occasion marked the collaboration between Wanis and Sainsbury, with the latter announcing the Worlds Foods line distribution.

Wanis was founded in 1964 and took its name from its founder Mr. Tulsidas Wadhwani. Mr. Wadhwani's mission was to help the new migrant communities coming to the UK during this era enjoy an authentic taste of home and in so doing stay connected to their roots and cultures.

Guests included His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, High Commissioner for Jamaica, Mr. Alistair Soyode representing the Nigerian High Commissioner, Mr. Bello Jaye, Trade Officer, Nigeria High Commission, Mr. Ayo Akinfe, Chairman, CANUK Nigerian Diaspora group, Mr. Sanjay Wadhwani, Managing Director, Wanis, Mr. George Phillips, Commercial Director, Wanis, Mr. Vas Sideras, Area Manager, Wanis, Mr. Frank

Marimo, Sainsbury's Buyer for World Foods, Mr. Papa Kow Bertels, Head of Trade, Ghana High Commission, Mr. Mike Abiola, CEO, African Voice, Mr. Tim Campbell MBE, Social Enterprise Ambassador and winner of the first series of The Apprentice, Mr.. Alistair Soyode, Founder of BEN TV, Mr. Manish Tiwari, CEO "Here And Now" Media Agency, Mr. Kofi Tawiah, CEO of Akwaabauk and Mr. Paul Harrison, Head of Community, Wanis.

Mr. Alam Ameer Operations Director, Wanis International Foods, led the tour of the warehouse. There were a wide array of products from Trinidad and Tobago-based companies including Matouks, Chief Brand Products, Carib Brewery and Sunshine Snacks available for distribution/sale to leading supermarkets and off-licence to be purchased by the diaspora and others in their quest for a taste of 'home'.

High Commissioner Dhanpaul who was impressed by the wide selection of foods from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean promised to engage with companies, manufacturers and other suppliers of food and drink products in Trinidad and Tobago about the great opportunity to export their products to the United Kingdom.

Top: High Commissioner Dhanpaul was shown the wide array of products from Trinidad and Tobago-based companies. **At right:** High Commissioner Dhanpaul speaks with Mr. Alam Ameer Operations Director, Wanis International Foods after the tour of the facilities.

COURTESY VISIT WITH THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul met with the Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons on Wednesday 23rd March 2022.

At the meeting, High Commissioner Dhanpaul was briefed on the Speaker's role in British parliamentary practices. The Speaker also expressed his love for the game of cricket and his admiration of the West Indies Cricket team. He also expressed his desire to visit Trinidad and Tobago. High Commissioner Dhanpaul also discussed his role as the representative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

The High Commissioner also met with Mrs Marianne Cwynarski (nee Juanette) CBE, Director General of Operations in the House of Commons as well as Mr. David Clark, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Speaker. These two distinguished individuals have "special" ties to Trinidad and Tobago. Mrs Cwynarski's parents are from Trinidad and Tobago while Mr. Clark's immediate family lived for many years in the Republic. They both have many relatives and friends who call Trinidad and Tobago their home. They also frequently travel back to the islands. They have been an inspiration to many persons in the diaspora and in Trinidad and Tobago.

Pictured: (L-R) High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Mrs Marianne Cwynarski (nee Juanette) CBE, Director General of Operations in the House of Commons and Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons. **Photo: ©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor**

HC DHANPAUL VISITS THE BRITISH LIBRARY COUNCIL

On 23rd March 2022, His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul and his spouse Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul were invited by The British Library to view a sample of the Trinidad and Tobago collection. High Commissioner Dhanpaul was received by Ms Marcie Hopkins, Head of International Office and Ms Janet Zmroczek, Head of the European and American Collection at the British Library.

During the visit, High Commissioner Dhanpaul was taken on a short introductory tour of the British Library and then treated to a Show and Tell of historic pieces from the Caribbean Collections, Maps and Philatelic Collections. He also met British Library curatorial staff Mercedes Aguirre, Lead Curator American Collections, Nicole Moore, Curator Caribbean Collections, Cecile Communal, International Office Manager, and Philip Abraham, Assistant Eccles Centre. Discussion focused on possible areas of collaboration opportunities between the Library and Trinidad and Tobago heritage and archival institutions owing to the long and rich history of both countries.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY'S PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS: CA PAPER MONEY ARCHIVE - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT 1905 - 1926 CURRENY NOTES ISSUES

In 1904, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago passed the Currency Notes Ordinance, establishing the Board of Commissioners of Currency granted the right of issue paper money in denominations of 1,2 and 1000 dollars in exchange for gold or silver coins previosuly issued, followed by the introduction of 5,10, 20 and 100 dollar denominations in the 1920s. Each curreny note was designed and manufactured by the British Security Printing Firm, Thomas De La Rue and Company, London.

Above: HE Vishnu Dhanpaul with a representative from the British Library. **Photo: British Library Americas Collections. Below:** The British Library's Philatelic Collections of Trinidad and Tobago Government 1905 - 1926 Curreny Notes Issues which were on special display for His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul and Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul.

CARICOM HEADS OF MISSIONS IN LONDON MEETING

On April 1st, 2022, representatives of the CARICOM Caucus in London, a representative from the Embassy of Belize in Brussels (who joined *via* Zoom) and Ambassador Marian Schuegraf, Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Office in the German Federal Foreign Office, participated in a meeting organised by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission. Multilateral priorities and Germany's development cooperation programme were among the key areas of discussion. His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London was in attendance at the meeting.

Pictured: CARICOM Heads of Mission Caucus meeting. **Photo courtesy High Commission of Belize, London**

T&T HIGH COMMISSION HOSTS A MEETING BETWEEN HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKS ORTT AND DIASPORA IN LONDON

Above: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, **Below:** Member of the audience asking questions during the President's Q&A session.

A reception to honour Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces was held on Friday 13th, May at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London. Members of the President's delegation included Chief of Defence Staff Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel.

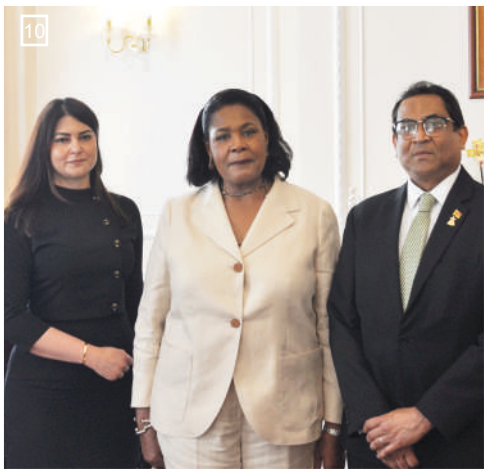
Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT travelled to the United Kingdom to attend the Platinum Jubilee Celebration in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Also accompanying the President to the United Kingdom was the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra.

Her Excellency met with staff of the High Commission and members of the diaspora who have excelled in their chosen fields including health, education, culture, the arts, business and law among others and who were recipients of UK national Awards. Also, present were a number of Trinidad and Tobago scholarship students studying in the United Kingdom.

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul in his welcome remarks reflected on the resilience of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, its national instrument - the steelpan and its importance on the world stage. He noted that citizens had much to be grateful for given the targeted policy initiatives which were in place to support the citizenry. This low cost of tertiary education was one of the reasons why nationals from Trinidad and Tobago have done extremely well abroad. High Commissioner Dhanpaul also reiterated that all were welcomed at the High Commission and pledged his commitment to working with the diaspora.

In her unscripted address President Paula-Mae Weekes said that nationals of Trinidad and Tobago were to be found throughout the world even in diverse places such as Russia, Dubai and Germany. Her Excellency invited nationals to participate in a Question and Answer segment. Nationals were also encouraged to share their expertise with those back home.

1-3) A few members of the audience who asked questions during the President's Q&A session - Ms Sylvia Maharaj MBE, Mr. Adrian Joseph OBE and Ms Shirley Ramnarine, **4)** MsJada Marsh violinist**, 5)** High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul addressing the audience, **6)** Mr. Dexter Marchan panist, **7)** Ms Majorie Rennie and Ms Domnique Le Gendre with President Paula-Mae Weekes, **8)** High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Mr. Ansel Wong OBE and President Paula-Mae Weekes**, 17)** Ms Patrice Lawrence and Ms Arlene Wellman, **Photo: Ms Arlene Wellman**



10) Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul, President Paula-Mae Weekes and High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, **11)** Mr. Ron Ramdin speaking with President Paula-Mae Weekes, **12)** High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul with Mr. Riyadh Khan and Ms Sharan Khan,owners of Trini Shop UK, **13)** Mrs Beverley Awonaya, Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul, Ms Jada Marsh and Mr. Dexter Machan ,**14)** President Paula-Mae Weekes is greeted by (L-R) Ms Greta Mendez MBE, Mr. Terry Noel MBE and Mr. Ancil Barclay**. 15)** Dr. Roxanne Crosby-Nwaobi**,** President Paula-Mae Weekes and Mr. Calvin Morley**, 16)** Ms Gabrielle Balgobin and guest, **17)** Representatives from Tobago Residents UK - Ms Jo-Anne Melville, Mr. Audley Graham and Ms Rosalind Phillips McMillan, **18)** (L-R) Young student speaks with Ms Amanda Smyth and Ms Arlene Wellman.

MINISTERS CALL FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF SMALL STATES

On 22th June 2022, on the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, leaders and ministers met for high-level discussions on how to best strengthen support for the Commonwealth's 32 Small States.

Ministers stressed the need to forge partnerships to mobilise global efforts on the issues affecting small states, such as the persistent environmental, health and economic shocks heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic ramifications of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The containment measures to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the halting of all non-essential travel, contributed to the average Commonwealth Small States Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracting by 7.2 per cent. This is higher than the 3.3 per cent contraction of global GDP, due to the steep contraction in tourism and trade, on which Small States heavily rely. The economic recovery of Small States now hinges on vaccination rates and distribution, alongside fiscal support and the recovery of international travel and tourism.

Pictured: Senator the Honourable Dr Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

In an effort to collectively help build the resilience of Small States, the Commonwealth Secretariat together with the United Nations has developed the UN-Commonwealth Advocacy Strategy on Small States which was officially launched at meeting.

For more information on Commonwealth Ministers Meeting on Small States - CHOGM 2022, please visit:

https://thecommonwealth.org/news/ministers-call-greater-international-action-strengthen-resilience-small-states

LEADERS' RETREAT OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2022

On 25th June, Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs participated in the Leaders' Retreat of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). It was held at the Intare Conference Arena in Rwanda.

The Leaders' Retreat was held in two sessions, the first focusing on youth, technology, and innovation, and the second on global challenges. Highlights of the outcome of the retreat included a host of proposed initiatives underpinned by sustainability and peace to improve the lives of all the people of the Commonwealth.

Top: Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs in disccussion with the Right Honourable Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, **At right: (L-R)** Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, the Honourable Philip Edward Davis the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, The Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica, the Honourable John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize and His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. **Photos: J Craig**

FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET AHEAD OF CHOGM TO DISCUSS POST-COVID RECOVERY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Above: (Front row, 9th from left) The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC, Commonwealth Secretary-General with the Foreign Ministers at CHOGM Rwanda 2022 Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting in Kigali, **Photo: Rwanda MFA, Below:** Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. **Photo: J Craig**

Commonwealth foreign ministers have met face-to-face for the first time in almost three years, ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Foreign ministers and senior officials from the Commonwealth's 54 nations have met in Kigali this week for their first in-person gathering in almost three years, ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

The meeting has allowed ministers the opportunity to hold formal discussions on the CHOGM theme, **Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming**, focusing on three topical issues.

Ministers discussed new and evolving challenges to ensuring peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and how the Commonwealth is addressing these challenges now and in the future.

They also considered multifaceted issues relating to sustainable and inclusive development such as climate change, the environment and oceans, sustainable energy, youth and innovation. Ministers discussed how member states should address these complex issues, with a special focus on the needs of small states and least developed countries.

As countries around the world continue to recover from the deep impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ministers also examined the severe consequences of the pandemic on public health systems, trade, and connectivity, and how governments can build back better systems capable of handling future crises. Ministers heard how the Commonwealth can strengthen health security and resilience, support trading systems and small states, and harness other opportunities for a sustainable and inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery.

Several high-level guests were invited to attend the meeting. Ministers had the opportunity to hear from the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, and the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who presented their organisations' perspectives and offered ideas for greater inter-organisational collaboration to tackle these matters.

The meeting outcomes will inform the policy agenda for the gathering of heads of government at CHOGM, opened on 24th June 2022.

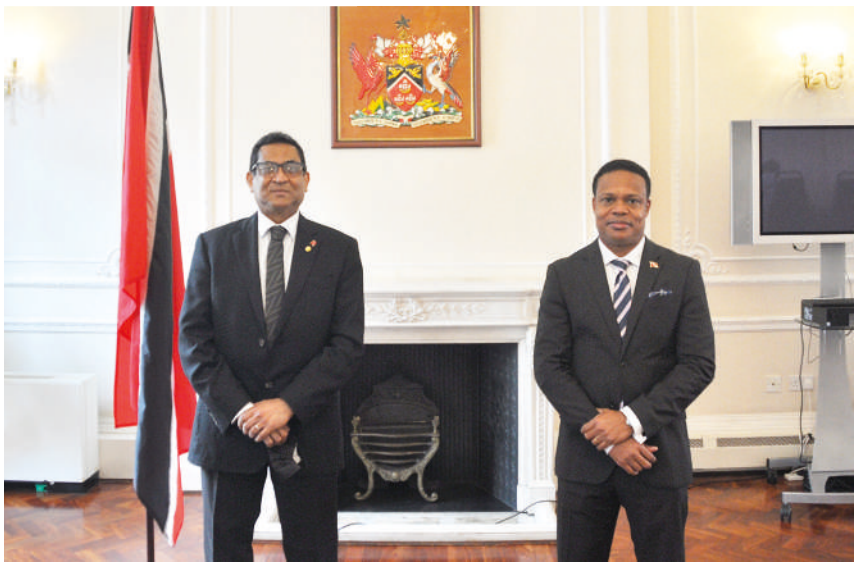
Edited from https://thecommonwealth.org/news/foreign-ministers-meet-ahead-chogm-discuss-post-covid-recovery-sustainable

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS PAYS COURTEST CALL ON HIGH COMMISSION

Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner and staff of the High Commission, London on Tuesday 28th June 2022.

Dr. Amery Browne together with His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul and the rest of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda over the period 20th - 25th June, 2022.

At the meeting with staff members Dr Browne spoke about his experiences in Kigali and the success of CHOGM. Dr Browne also encouraged staff to continue working together as a team to surmount any challenges and deliver best possible results.



Top: Senator the Honourable Dr Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and Trinidad and Tobago High Commission staff members. **Middle:** His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul greeted Senator the Honourable Dr Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs on his arrival. **Top right:** Senator the Honourable Dr Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs was given short tour of the Mission by His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul. **At right:** His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul and Senator the Honourable Dr Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs.

UPCOMING EVENTS + PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

ANNUAL TNT GERMAN ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

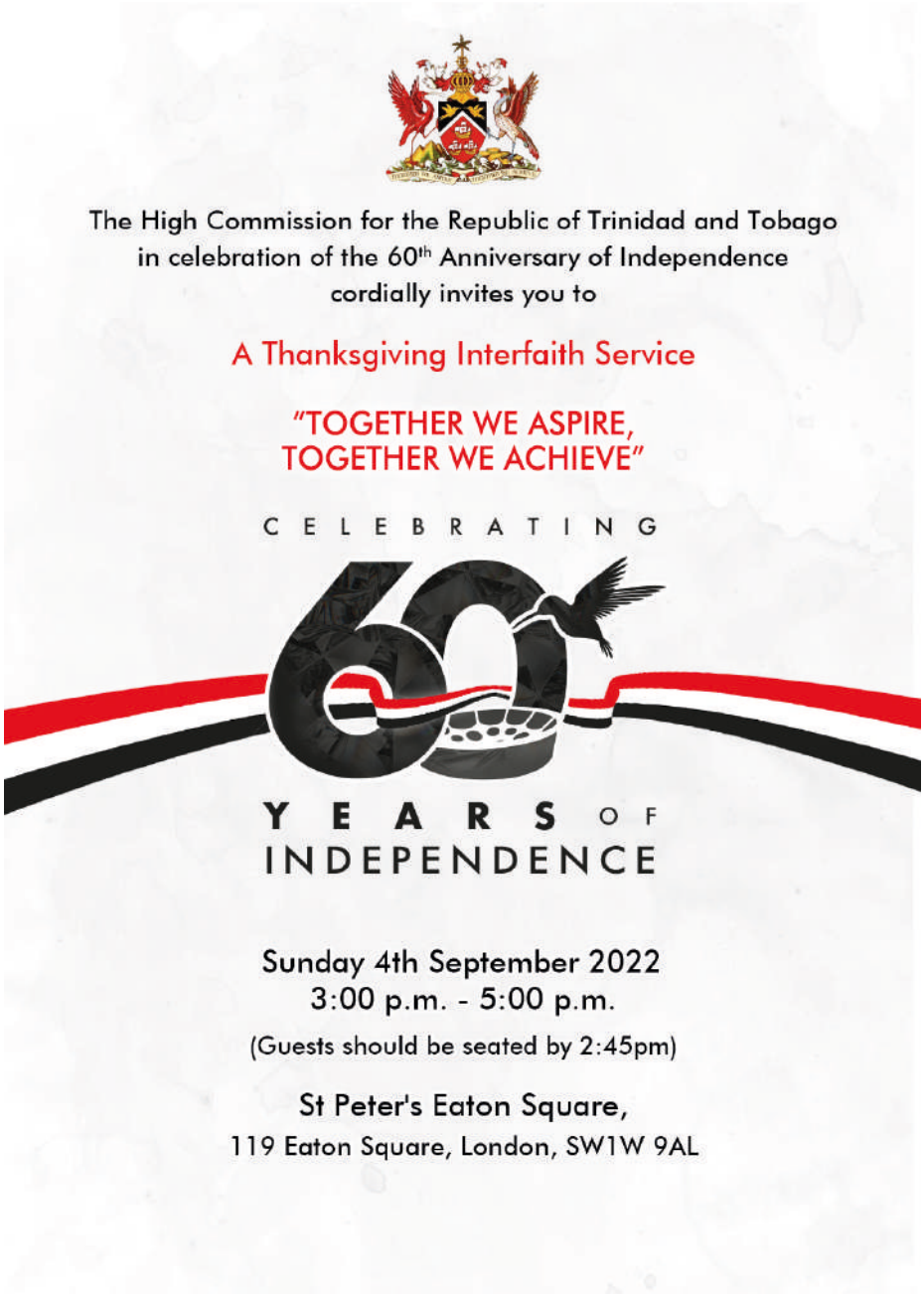
VOLKSPARK FRIEDRICHSHAIN PARK, 10249 BERLIN, GERMANY. TIME: 3PM

For further info, please visit: https://www.facebook.com/TnTGermanAssociation or email: **tntga2018@gmail.com**

SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ASSOCIATION UK
TRINBAGO CURRY FEST 60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

380 GREEN LANES, FINSBURY PARK, LONDON N4 1DW. TIME: 3PM


The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Independence
cordially invites you to
A Thanksgiving Interfaith Service
"TOGETHER WE ASPIRE,
TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE"
CELEBRATING
60
YEARS OF
INDEPENDENCE
Sunday 4th September 2022
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Guests should be seated by 2:45pm)
St Peter's Eaton Square,
119 Eaton Square, London, SW1W 9AL

The Mission wishes to invite submissions from the Diaspora on various topics which may include short stories, poems and other interesting tidbits on life here and back home for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Email: **hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt**

THE 2021 WORLD FOOD PRIZE LAUREATE T&T'S DR. HARAKSINGH THILSTED

Each year, hundreds of the world's top agricultural leaders, professionals and experts gather at the Iowa State Capitol to celebrate a distinguished individual as they receive the World Food Prize, known as the "Nobel Prize of food and agriculture." This year, Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted of Trinidad and Tobago and Denmark was honored for her groundbreaking work in harnessing the use of aquaculture to fulfill the nutrition needs of rural communities, specifically women and children, in Asia and Africa.

"As a scientist, I feel this award is an important recognition of the essential but often overlooked role of fish and aquatic food systems in agricultural research for development," Thilsted said. "This award is a major acknowledgment of the urgent need to prioritise fish and aquatic foods in nutrition policies and program interventions at national and global levels."

The 2021 World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony occurred as part of the 2021 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue: Gaining Momentum - Food Systems Transformation in the Decade of Action and featured remarks from Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, World Food Prize Foundation President Barbara Stinson and Thilsted.

Distinguished guests at the ceremony were United States Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack and Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula.

During her acceptance speech, Thilsted said, "My work is just the beginning for us to understand and make full use of the potential of diverse aquatic food to transform food, land, and water systems so that we can nourish all peoples and our planet. I call on young researchers and students … to be inspired by my work and take it to new heights."

The Ceremony concluded with an uplifting performance from Kees Dieffenthaller, the lead singer of the Caribbean soca group Kes The Band from the Laureate's home country of Trinidad and Tobago. Kes The Band has gained household recognition in the Caribbean for their unique blend of soulful vocals, calypso inspired melodies, rock riffs and island beats and their captivating, high energy performances. Following the ceremony, the celebration was carried into the Capitol Rotunda for the Laureate Award Ceremony Gala Reception.

Thilsted, the WorldFish Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health, was the first to discover the high levels of essential micronutrients and fatty acids found in the small native fish species commonly found and consumed in Bangladesh. Her findings have now been amplified across numerous countries where millions of low-income families are farming and eating small fish to provide their children with the necessary nutrition to ensure a child's prosperous first 1,000 days.

https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/laureates/2021_thilsted/

Top: (L-R) Mr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula, Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Rachel Ruan McLean, Vice President, Ruan Companies, Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh 2021 Thilsted, World Food Prize laureate, Mr. John Ruan IV, President, Ruan Companies, Mr. Thomas Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture. **Photo: IOWA CBS. Middle:** Dr. Haraksingh Thilsted on a field visit with the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rangpur, Bangladesh. **At right:** Kees Dieffenthaller, performs for Dr. Haraksingh Thilsted, left, during the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. **Photos: World Food Prize**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ROXANNE CROSBY-NWAOBI PHD ON WINNING THE NURSING TIMES AWARDS 2021

Dr Crosby-Nwaobi is a postdoctoral ophthalmic nurse researcher and the lead nurse for research at Moorfields Eye Hospital. She is passionate about improving ophthalmic patient related outcomes through the modelling of real-world clinical data to deliver personalised healthcare. She sits on the board of the Royal College of Nursing Ophthalmic Nursing Forum and is a Trustee of GlaucomaUK.

Dr. Crosby-Nwaobi is also a Florence Nightingale scholar, a NIHR 70@70 senior research leader, an inaugural Topol/ Health Education England Digital Health Fellow and an NIHR/HEE Clinical Lecturer. She holds academic/teaching positions at both University College London Institute of Ophthalmology and City University School of Health Sciences. Dr Crosby-Nwaobi has several peer-reviewed publications and oral/poster presentations at national and international conferences.

Another high achieving Trinbagonian national flying the flag for our country.

Pictured: Dr. Roxanne Crosby-Nwaobi with (L-R) Dr Louise Wood CBE, Director of Science, Research and Evidence at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Deputy CEO of the NIHR and Ms Naga Munchetty, BBC Presenter and Journalist. **Photo courtesy Dr. Roxanne Crosby-Nwaobi**

DARREN SHEPPARD RECEIVES COMMONWEALTH POINT OF LIGHT AWARD

Darren Sheppard, representing Trinidad and Tobago, is a panist who leads 'Fonclaire Steel Orchestra', a steelband which has helped teach music and run education programmes for over 1,000 children in schools in South Trinidad.

Darren has been a member of the Fonclaire Steel Orchestra for over 40 years, starting when he was a child, and has since founded other steel orchestras, both in Trinidad and Tobago and in Canada, where he has worked as a musician. Through 'Fonclaire Steel Orchestra', Darren and his network of volunteers aim to support under-resourced communities and use music to provide life-changing opportunities for new generations of young people. The orchestra has also recently set up a seniors programme teaching music to older people who turned to music as a form of therapy during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Harriet Cross, British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, stated that,"Darren is an admirable example of someone who works continuously to empower his community through his work with young people. Through his stewardship of the steelband Fonclaire, he has used Trinidad and Tobago's steelpan music to inspire people, young and old, to improve themselves and excel beyond expectations. I am delighted that I will soon present Darren Sheppard with this honour on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. In addition to highlighting Darren's work which drives positive change in San Fernando, I hope this award inspires people to dedicate themselves to improving their own communities and their country. I know many people are proud of Darren's achievement and I wish him continued strength and success."

Darren said, "This award shines a light, not only on me, but on the magnificent

power of Trinidad and Tobago's steelpan music and the amazing community that gave birth to our steelband. I thank God for being the centre of my work and I thank Her Majesty The Queen for honouring me with this recognition. I finally thank sons Daniel and Dade for sharing me all their lives with so many others. Fonclaire Forever."

Edited from https://www.pointsoflight.gov.uk/fonclaire-steel-orchestra-trinidad/

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2022

Above: Representatives from various Caribbean countries of the Commonwealth with their flags, **Below:** Melodians Steel Orchestra, **Photo: Westminster Abbey**, **Below right:** T&T flagbearer Yohance Osbourne**, Bottom:** HRH Prince of Wales speaks to HC Dhanpaul and another invited guest at the Commonwealth Day Reception **Photo: Frank Augstein/WPA Poo**

Commonwealth Day 2022 was celebrated on Monday 14 March 2022, with a service held at Westminster Abbey, London. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2022 centred around the theme for the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – 'Delivering a Common Future' – which highlights how the 54 member countries in the Commonwealth family are 'innovating, connecting and transforming' to help achieve goals like fighting climate change, promoting good governance and boosting trade.

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Flagbearer Yohanne Osborne, a national high achiever and the Melodians Steel Orchestra led by Trinidad and Tobago national Terry Noel, represented Trinidad and Tobago.

In her Commonwealth Day Message, Queen Elizabeth, in her role as Head of the Commonwealth, said, " In these testing times, it is my hope that you can draw strength and inspiration from what we share, as we work together towards a healthy, sustainable and prosperous future for all".

The Commonwealth Day Service at the Abbey was followed by a Reception at Marlborough House, the Commonwealth Secretariat's headquarters in London, at which HRH the Prince of Wales was the special guest.

Pictured: In London, commemorations began with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Commonwealth Memorial Gates, an annual ceremony honouring the five million men and women from Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian subcontinent who volunteered to serve with the Armed Forces during the First World War and Second World War. The High Commission was represented by Mrs Beverley Awonaya, Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism, who laid a wreath on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago.

T&T'S MICKEL ALEXANDER WINS THE CARIBBEAN & AMERICAS COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

Mickel Alexander, co-founder of 'The 2 Cents Movement', received the award for the most innovative project in the Caribbean and Latin American Region when the Commonwealth Youth Programme held the awards ceremony virtually, on Wednesday April 16th. The awards recognise outstanding Commonwealth young people (aged 15-29), from the different Commonwealth regions (Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe and Canada, and Australia and the Pacific) whose projects are transforming lives in their communities; providing practical solutions to complex problems and helping to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda.

Pictured: Mickel Alexander. **Photo: Commonwealth.org**

Addressing the awards ceremony, Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Patricia Scotland QC said:

"Young people are central to the role and purpose of the Commonwealth – and at the heart of our work.

"One of the many things that amazes and excites me most about our Commonwealth young people is their ingenuity. Whether the challenge they are tackling is new or centuries-old, their innovative spirit, energy and passion offer us out-of-the-box solutions that can change the world for the better.

"I am proud to put our incredible young people in the spotlight with these awards."

More than 1,000 entries were received this year – the highest ever recorded. Twenty finalists were selected across each of the award's regional categories following a rigorous judging process.

Each regional winner will receive £3,000 for their project. Receiving his regional award, Mr. Alexander said:

"I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to receive this award.

"This moment is so amazing for me, I have been thinking so much about what this award means… through this experience I have been meeting so many wonderful people."

"I know this is just the start of the journey and I'm excited about what is to come."

'The 2 Cents Movement', is one of the largest youth-led non-profit organisation in Trinidad and Tobago.

The non-profit organisation reaches 20,000 - 30,000 young people annually across the Caribbean, meeting their educational and supportive needs through arts-based activities like poetry and spoken word.

'The 2 Cents Movement' advocate against the radicalisation of young Caribbean people at risk of joining overseas conflicts.

Edited from https://thecommonwealth.org/news/young-people-across-commonwealth-recognised-transformation-projects-around-world

MAYA NANAN NAMED QCT YOUTH VENTURES PROGRAMME AWARDEE

Maya Nanan, from Trinidad and Tobago, was announced as a Queen's Commonwealth Trust Platinum Jubilee Youth Ventures Programme awardee.

Maya Nanan founded the Siblings and Friends Network (Sibs & Friends) when she was 12 years old. She wanted to create opportunities for her autistic brother and others with disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago. Sibs & Friends create equal access to opportunities for autistic persons and advocates for inclusion of persons with disabilities, at all levels of society in Trinidad &Tobago, so that they would have an opportunity to develop their full potential and live fulfilling lives. Sibs & Friends currently has 275 autistic persons who are registered members.

Sibs & Friends is the only youth-led NGO which focuses on disability and inclusion in Trinidad and Tobago. There are 350 youth volunteers, who conceptualise and execute all events and activities, both physical and online. Sibs & Friends recently opened Rahul's Clubhouse - an Autism-friendly space where individuals

Pictured: Maya Nanan. **Photo: Sataish Rampersad**

diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder can engage in education and therapy activities and socialise with one-on-one assistance from both youth volunteers and professionals.

The Queen's Commonwealth Trust (QCT) was launched on April 21st 2018 in recognition of Her Majesty The Queen's lifetime of service to others and her love for the Commonwealth and its young people. Maya's work has already been internationally recognised; in 2020, she won The Diana Award, the accolade set up in 1999 in Princess Diana's memory.

QCT put young Commonwealth leaders at the centre of everything they do, and provide their organisations with flexible funding, practical tools and support, and a vibrant network to help them transform their communities, across the areas of agriculture and food, education and employability, the environment, health, and inclusion.

T&T REPRESENTATIVE AMONG THE NEW COHORT OF WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Pictured: DG Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General WTO (front row, centre) and Mr. Russel Campbell (back row, far right) from Trinidad and Tobago with the new cohort of WTO young professionals. **Photo courtesy WTO**

A group of 12 young professionals from developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) have begun a year of work at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to improve their knowledge about international trade and to contribute to WTO activities. At a welcome ceremony held at the WTO on February 2nd, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala thanked the participants for bringing their wide range of talents to the WTO and praised the diverse nature of the group.

Director General Okonjo-Iweala outlined the main areas of negotiations among WTO members, the results achieved so far and the remaining tasks.

Trinidad and Tobago was represented for the first time in the programme by Mr. Russel Campbell. Mr. Campbell said, "It is a very exciting time to be at the WTO, a moment ripe with opportunity. I am looking forward to immersing myself in the work of the Legal Affairs Division and increasing my knowledge of WTO law".

Selected from over 7,000 applicants, this year's young professionals come from Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Georgia, Ghana, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zambia.

Launched in 2016, the Young Professionals Programme seeks to bring more diversity into the WTO Secretariat and build the trade-related expertise of professionals from developing and least-developed countries, particularly those under-represented within the WTO membership.

Russel Campbell
Photo courtesy WTO

At the welcome ceremony, the young professionals expressed their strong commitment to immerse themselves in the international trade environment and to contribute to the daily work of the WTO Secretariat.

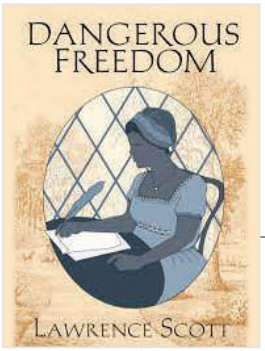
"One thing that is important for you to imbibe is the fact that the purpose of this Organization is to enhance living standards of people, help create employment and support sustainable development," DG Okonjo-Iweala said to the participants. "This place is about people. And that is what you must keep in your mind every single day. You should always constantly tune back to that and ask yourself: Is what I'm doing going to be of service to ordinary people, ultimately?"

In her concluding remarks, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala urged the young professionals to make the most of their experiences at the WTO and to "work hard, observe, listen, learn and contribute."

The young professionals and the Director-General were joined online by the WTO ambassadors and permanent representatives of the group's countries of origin and by directors and supervisors of the divisions of the WTO Secretariat hosting this year's participants.

Edited from https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/ypp_02feb22_e.htm

Writer's Corner



DANGEROUS FREEDOM

LAWRENCE SCOTT

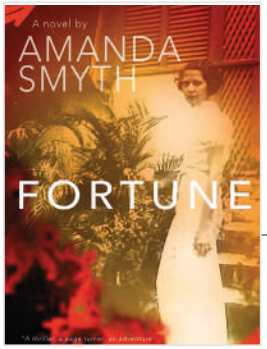
This is a thought-provoking and subtle novel, from an award-winning Trinidadian writer, which will not be easily forgotten,' - The Historical Novel Society

In this radical and moving historical novel, Scott weaves fact with fiction to reveal "the great deception" exercised by the powerful on a mixed-race child born in the late 18th century and brought up in the London home of England's Lord Chief Justice.

Dido Belle was the daughter of an African-born enslaved woman and the sea-faring nephew of Lord Mansfield. She was freed only on Mansfield's death and became Elizabeth d'Aviniere on her marriage. Scott imagines Elizabeth's adult world where she reflects on her disturbed childhood and fears for her own children's safety at risk from slave catchers. Above all, she yearns for her lost mother. Why did she no longer write? Where was she? The novel builds to a powerful denouement as the events of Elizabeth's past engage with the traumas of her present.

"In Dangerous Freedom I am trying to redress what I see as the romantic portrayals of Dido in art, film and literature," says Lawrence Scott, whose first novel Witchbroom, set in Trinidad, became a BBC Book at Bedtime. "I wanted to question the sketchy history we have of Dido and, through fiction, to alter the psychological and political perspectives. I hope that the novel can add to our understanding of a pain that remains just below the surface of contemporary life."

Edited from https://www.papillotepress.co.uk/books/dangerous-freedom/



FORTUNE

AMANDA SMYTH

'Magnificently absorbing' - The Guardian

Eddie Wade has recently returned from the US oilfields. He is determined to sink his own well and make his fortune in the 1920s Trinidad oil-rush. His sights are set on Sonny Chatterjee's failing cocoa estate, Kushi, where the ground is so full of oil you can put a stick in the ground and see it bubble up. When a fortuitous meeting with businessman Tito Fernandez brings Eddie the investor he desperately needs, the three men enter into a partnership. A friendship between Tito and Eddie begins that will change their lives forever, not least when the oil starts gushing. But their partnership also brings Eddie into contact with Ada, Tito's beautiful wife, and as much as they try, they cannot avoid the attraction they feel for each other.

Fortune, based on true events, catches Trinidad at a moment of historical change whose consequences reverberate down to present concerns with climate change and environmental destruction. As a story of love and ambition, its focus is on individuals so enmeshed in their desires that they blindly enter the territory of classic Greek tragedy where actions always have consequences.

'Don't even read the synopsis, dive right in; Fortune is a read that rustles, breathes, takes you by its sultry hand and doesn't let you go.' DBC Pierre

Edited from https://www.peepaltreepress.com/books/fortune

COMING TO ENGLAND (STAGE PLAY)

BARONESS FLOELLA BENJAMIN

Photo: Geraint Lewis

An inspirational story of hope, determination and triumph brought to life in this moving musical journey.

Bursting onto the stage with music, storytelling and humour, Floella Benjamin's award-winning and iconic book Coming to England comes to life in this world premiere stage adaptation.

Much loved by children and families, Coming to England tells Floella's own story of emigrating to England as a child. Aged just 10, she and her siblings left Trinidad and sailed alone to join their parents. But Floella's excitement for her new life in England is short-lived, with her family subjected to racism and intolerance in 1960s' London. Guided by her mother, and working twice as hard as her classmates, Coming to England tells the story of how a young Floella overcame adversity and grew to become Baroness Benjamin of Beckenham.

Adapted for the stage by David Wood ("the national children's dramatist" – The Times) this vibrant and energetic musical is the perfect entertainment for the whole family.

"I am absolutely thrilled that the musical production of my book Coming to England which has been adapted by the fantastic award winning playwright David Wood, will have its world premiere at The REP early next year. I cannot wait to see the story about my experiences arriving in the UK come to life on the stage in front of audiences of all ages. What a wonderful way for a new generation of people to get to know this Windrush story." - Floella Benjamin

Edited from https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/coming-to-england/

J S GOMES SHORT STORY 'OMOLARA' SHORTLISTED FOR COMMONWEALTH SHORT STORY PRIZE 2022

James S. Gomes from Trinidad and Tobago, was shortlisted for the 2022 Commonwealth Writers Short Story Prize. His short story 'Omolara' was chosen among 25 other shortlisted writers by the international judging panel from over 6,700 entries.

'Omolara' is a short story of a girl's attack that causes mental and physical changes. Her innocence now lost, leading her to travel and defend herself in a changing world.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, J.S. Gomes has lived in the US and UK for the last 27 years. He identifies as a Trinbagonian and is proud of his country's diverse culture of food, music and of course the creative arts. He is a graduate of the City University of New York, studying writing and literature. A professor's echoing words 'to continue writing' encouraged him to be a first-time entrant to the competition in 2022.

Diana McCaulay from Jamaica was announced the winner for the Caribbean Region with her short story 'Bridge Over the Yallahs River'.

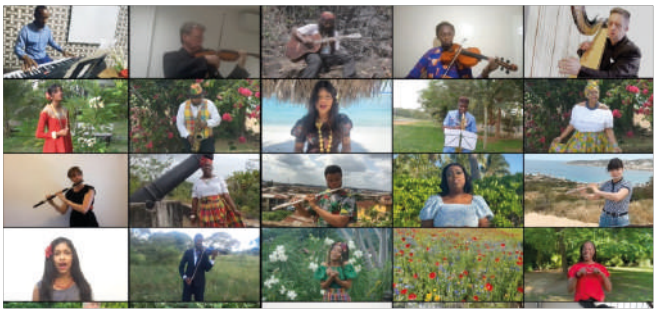
Pictured: Jame S Gomes. **Photo courtesy Commonwealth Writers**

The international judging panel was chaired by Guyanese writer Fred D'Aguiar. The other panellists: representing each of the five Commonwealth regions: Rwandan publisher Louise Umutoni-Bower (Africa), Indian short story writer and novelist Jahvani Barua (Asia), Cypriot writer and academic Stephanos Stephanides (Canada and Europe), Award-winning Trinidad and Tobago writer Kevin Jared Hosein (Caribbean) and Australian Wiradjuri writer, poet and academic Jeanine Leane (Pacific).

The Commonwealth Short Story Prize, which is administered by the Commonwealth Foundation, is awarded annually for the best piece of unpublished short fiction from any of the Commonwealth's 54 member states. It is the most accessible and international of all writing competitions: in addition to English, entries can be submitted in Bengali, Chinese, Creole, French, Greek, Malay, Portuguese, Samoan, Swahili, Tamil, and Turkish.

Ntsika Kota was annoucned the overall winner for the 2022 Commonwealth Short Story Prize on 21st June 2022 at a special event as part of the Commonwealth People's Forum in Kigali, Rwanda. Ntsika made history as the first writer from Eswatini to win the prize for 'and the earth drank deep.' For more information on the Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2022 please visit commonwealthwriters.org or follow @cwwriters on Facebook and Instagram.

DIONYSUS ENSEMBLE'S NEW COMMONWEALTH MUSIC PROJECT FEATURES TWO CREATIVES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Pictured: Cross section of musicians perfomring New Every Morning – Commonwealth Natural Wonders. **Photo courtesy The Dionysus Ensemble**

The 'Commonwealth Natural Wonders in Music' project aims to unite those with a passion for music and art to work together on a new song and accompanying video celebrating the natural wonders of the Commonwealth.

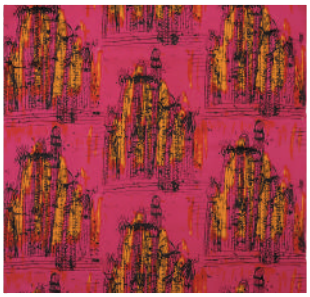
The piece weaves together sounds from the natural world (e.g. wind through the trees, bird song, the sounds of the waves and waterfalls) and traditional national music to create a melody that reflects the richness of life across the Commonwealth's 54 countries.

The video features performances from musicians filmed against a backdrop of stunning locations, as well as work from artists and illustrators. Trinidad and Tobago was represented by Ms Ally Ifill and Mr. Wesley Goorachan.

Delivered in partnership with professional music group The Dionysus Ensemble, the project celebrates the wide array of environmental riches and artistic talent that can be found in the Commonwealth. The finished work was released in time for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend on May 30th, 2022.

WATCH THE VIDEO | MUSIC VIDEO bit.ly/3Gvhmys | SUBMITTED PHOTOS bit.ly/3wZuSWQ

ALTHEA MCNISH EXHIBITION AT THE WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY



Above: Althea McNish working on murals for P&O 'SS Oriana', 1959. **Photos courtesy The N15 Archive, Top right:** 'Golden Harvest', textile, designed by Althea McNish for Hull Traders, **Bottom right:** c.1960s, 'Painted Desert' textile design for Hull Traders, 1959. Printed cotton, **Photos: Private Collection**. **Below:** Althea McNish in her studio, c.1970, **Photo:** Bill Patterson.

Althea McNish: Colour is Mine is a landmark retrospective of one of the UK's most innovative textile artists and the first designer of Caribbean descent to achieve international recognition.

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, McNish (1924-2020) moved to the UK in 1950, completing a postgraduate textiles degree at the Royal College of Art and rising to prominence as a Black female designer. On graduating McNish began designing bestselling furnishing and fashion fabrics for iconic firms including Liberty, Dior, Heal's and Hull Traders, for whom she created one of her most famous patterns, *Golden Harvest*, in 1959. As her career progressed Ms McNish took on major interior design projects and mural commissions around the world, as well as creating wallpapers for leading companies.

McNish's painterly designs incorporated natural botanical forms from Britain and the Caribbean, using a riotous colour palette that overturned the staid rules of mid-century British textile design. Her technical mastery gave her the freedom to create ever more complex prints. "Whenever printers told me it couldn't be done, I would show them how to do it," she said. "Before long, the impossible became possible."

Drawing on extensive new research and her personal archive, Colour is Mine explores McNish's extraordinary career, her transformative impact on mid-century design and her enduring influence today. *Althea McNish: Colour is Mine* is curated by the William Morris Gallery and Rose Sinclair, Lecturer in Design Education at Goldsmiths, University of London and is part of a three-year research, exhibition and archiving project generously supported by the Society of Antiquaries through its Janet Arnold Textile award.

Althea McNish: Colour is Mine is sponsored by Liberty Fabrics, who will also be reissuing a capsule collection of Althea McNish's original fabric designs in Spring 2022 to coincide with the exhibition, available to purchase at Liberty in store and online.

The exhibition will also be part of the BBC's Art That Made Us Festival, a partnership between museums, libraries, archives and galleries coinciding with the broadcast of a major new series exploring Britain's creative history. The Festival ran from 1 – 30 April 2022. *Althea McNish: Colour is Mine* at William Morris Gallery ran from 2 April to 26 June 2022. For more information please visit: https://www.wmgallery.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions-43/althea-mcnish-colour-is-mine

THE MISSION CONGRATULATES THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AND NEW YEARS HONOUREES 2021/ 2022

Greta Mendez was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for her services to Dance in Her Majesty The Queen's New Year Honours 2021.

Greta Mendez is a movement and theatre director, choreographer, performance art artist, drama coach, carnivalist and filmmaker.

As a choreographer she explored themes such as silence and sensuality in "The Chair and Me"; body politics and ageism in "Ndulgence" and shifting cultures in "From Coffee Beans to Disinfectant".

In her theatre work, she worked on a wide range of plays which includes; "The Road" by Wole Soyinka, "Beef, No Chicken" by Derek Walcott, "Flyin West" by Pearl Cleage, "Love Space Demands" by Ntozake Shange and "King Lear" by William Shakespeare. Greta also directed MAAS Movers, NiN Dance Company and Battimamzel Dance Company.

In the 1970's – '80s, she was an advocate in the movement for a dance department in the Arts Council England and funding for independent dance.

Pictured: The MBE was presented to Greta Mendez by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal at Windsor Castle. **Photo courtesy Greta Mendez MBE**

Greta's short film "Kashmir's Ophelia" has won several Awards and has been shown Internationally. Greta is currently a Tutor at Identity School of Acting - and completing her film "Ah! Hard Rain."

Squadron Leader Kyle Roachford was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his appointment to the Military Division in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Squadron Leader Kyle Roachford attended El Dorado Secondary School and Caribbean Union College where he excelled in and represented his school at track and field, cricket and football.

Squadron Leader Roachford migrated to the UK and joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) in 2003, training as a gunner before being commissioned in 2014. During his 11 years in the RAF Recruitment, Squadron Leader Roachford served two operational tours of Iraq and one tour of Afghanistan. Once settled, Roachford was inspired to nurture and instruct and began delivering Force Protection Training and Pre – Deployment Training for the Specialist Chinook Force. As lead instructor, Roachford designed the Junior Leadership Course which is now used across the RAF. Roachford holds a Foundation Degree in Leadership and Management and a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management.

Squadron Leader Roachford is Officer Commanding Base Support Squadron and a founding member of the RAF Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Network. The Network tirelessly represents the interests of BAME military and civilian personnel and promotes

Pictured: Sqn Ldr Kyle Roachford displays his MBE outside Windsor Castle. **Photo courtesy Sqn Ldr Kyle Roachford MBE**

the benefits of diversity in the RAF. As Chair of the Network, Roachford also served on a specialist panel to NATO and the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office delegation to discuss race relations, lack of representation and the way forward. It is his work and leadership as Chairman of the Network that Squadron Leader Roachford received an MBE.

Patrice Lawrence was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for her services to Literature in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021.

Patrice Lawrence was born in Brighton and brought up in an Italian and Trinidadian household, her mother having come to England from Trinidad and Tobago to train as a psychiatric nurse.

Her first book for young adults, Orangeboy, was shortlisted for the 2016 Costa Children's Book Award and won the Bookseller YA Prize 2017 and Waterstone's Prize for Older Children's Fiction 2017. Both books have been nominated for the Carnegie Medal.

Pictured: Patrice Lawrence MBE with her daughter at Windsor Castle. **Photo courtesy Patrice Lawrence MBE**

Patrice worked for more than 20 years for charities supporting equality and social justice.

Arlene Wellman was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) for her services to Nursing during Covid-19 in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2021.

Arlene Wellman qualified as a general registered nurse in Trinidad and Tobago and migrated to the UK with the intention of training as a midwife. However she fell in love instantly with elderly care nursing and has more than 20 years' experience in this speciality. Arlene holds a first degree in Health and Social Care for Older People and a Master's degree in Clinical Healthcare Practice. She has held various senior nursing roles across acute trusts, including Matron, Senior Matron and Divisional Nurse at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. She also transformed the delivery of patient care and services as the Clinical Services Lead/Manager and Associate Director of Nursing at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Arlene has completed a Florence Nightingale Leadership Fellowship and is working towards becoming a registered Patient Safety Executive with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Pictured: The MBE was presented to Arlene Wellman by HRH The Prince of Wales in Windsor Castle. **Photo courtesy Arlene Wellman MBE**

Arlene is currently the Chief Nurse at Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust and Director of Infection Prevention and Control and also the Executive Lead for equality, diversity and inclusion at the Trust.

Horace Shango Ové CBE has been awarded Knight Bachelor for services to Media in the 2022 New Year's Honours List.

Horace Ové was born in Belmont, Trinidad and Tobago, in 1939. He came to Britain in 1960 to study painting, photography and interior design. The first short film he directed was The Art Of The Needle in 1966. The Guinness World Records credit him as being the first black British filmmaker to direct a feature-length picture, with *Pressure* in 1976.

Horace Ove has said his knighthood is "testament to how far we have come and in many respects how far we still have to go" after being recognised in the New Year Honours.

Ové was also honoured at the 2021 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival when it hosted a retrospective of his films including Playing Away, and King Carnival, Ové's love letter to Trinidad Carnival.

Isabelle Parasram was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for Political and Public Service in the 2022 New Year's Honours List.

Ms Parasram was born in London and brought up in a Trinbagonian household, her parents having emigrated to the United Kingdom from Trinidad and Tobago as part of the Windrush generation.

Ms Parasram is the Head of Chambers of Greycoat Law and CEO of an HR consultancy she founded in 2012, following a lengthy career as a barrister in the public, private and charitable sectors. She previously served as a school governor, charitable trustee of educational charities, Vice President of the Liberal Democrats Party and a member of its Senior Leadership Team.

She advocated on social justice, human rights and equality as Patron of a network for political donors, as a Board Director of a policy research forum and as a Trustee of its associated international think tank. She remains in the latter two roles.

Isabelle Parasram is currently the Chief Executive of Social Value UK.

Pictured: The OBE was presented to Isabelle Parasram by His Royal Highness, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge at Buckingham Palace. **Photo courtesy Isabelle Parasram OBE**

Above: Dame Jocelyn Barrow. **Photo: BBC**

DAME JOCELYN BARROW RACE RELATIONS CAMPAIGNER, BROADCASTER (1929 – 2020)

Edited from Dame Jocelyn Barrow obituary | **CHRIS MULLARD • THE GUARDIAN**

As general secretary and co-founder of the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination (Card) in the mid-1960s, Jocelyn Barrow, who has died aged 90, helped to pave the way for the 1965 Race Relations Act, which for the first time made racial discrimination illegal in Britain. Later she became the first black female governor of the BBC and an important black presence on a number of public bodies, including the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Parole Board.

Jocelyn's involvement in the creation of Card was sparked by an inspirational meeting she had in London in 1964 with the American civil rights activist Martin Luther King, who was passing through the UK on his way to Norway to receive the Nobel peace prize. "King was warm and charming, and wanted to give us an idea of what we should be doing," she said. "It helped to crystallise our ideas and we went on to form Card."

While there were other influential groups that had already been applying pressure for race relations legislation in Britain – and attempts to pass private members' bills had been going on for a number of years before 1965 – the creation of Card undoubtedly helped to galvanise Harold Wilson's Labour government into support for an officially sanctioned bill which it then steered through parliament.

Three years later, during the successful nationwide campaign that led to a new, updated 1968 Race Relations Act, Jocelyn accepted my invitation (as Card's northern regional secretary) to lead a march against racism in Newcastle upon Tyne. The hostility towards it was phenomenal, the local press signalled the potential danger of busloads of National Front demonstrators arriving from Leeds, and the Northumbrian police tried to get the march banned altogether. Its leaders received threats to their personal safety, and Jocelyn was warned not to travel to Tyneside at all.

Travel she did, however, and the march went ahead peacefully. Without a megaphone (her voice was commandingly loud), Jocelyn addressed a gathering of several hundred demonstrators, speaking of her upbringing and how it had shaped her fight against racial discrimination.

Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jocelyn was the daughter of Olive (nee Pierre) and her Barbadian husband, Charles Barrow, an engineer. After attending St Joseph's Convent school in Port of Spain she trained as a teacher at the city's governmental teacher training college, and arrived in the UK in 1959 to pursue an English degree at London University, followed by postgraduate studies at the Institute of Education. She remained in the UK for the rest of her life, and throughout the 1960s and 70s taught English at schools in Hackney, one of the most deprived areas of east London, later becoming a lecturer at Furzedown teacher training college in Tooting, south London.

As an educationist who fervently believed in multiculturalism, she could not stomach the yawning gap between well-resourced schools for mainly middle-class white children and poorly resourced schools for mainly working-class black children. Her experiences in the classroom prompted her to set up a local project called Each One Teach One, designed to help black children and their families support each other educationally.

However, although her teaching had its own significance, it was her more general work on race relations that garnered wider attention. She was general secretary and then vice chair of Card from 1964 to 1969, and immediately after the passage of the 1968 Race Relations Act, which made discrimination in housing and employment illegal, she was appointed a member of the Community Relations Commission, set up to co-ordinate national measures to encourage the "growth of harmonious relations" between different races. She served on that body until, after the 1976 Race Relations Act, it was amalgamated with the Race Relations Board to form the Commission for Racial Equality.

Later, as a member of the Parole Board (1983–87), and particularly as the first black female governor of the BBC (1981 to 1988), she initiated programmes that encouraged young black and Asian people to fulfil their potential. She was also chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission on Training Barristers and was a patron, since its foundation in 1981, of the Black Cultural Archives.

Much of Jocelyn's public work was not directly connected to race, however. From 1989 to 1995 she was deputy chair of the Broadcasting Standards Council, forerunner of Ofcom, and from 1993 to 1999 she was a non-executive director of the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust in London, where she pleaded for better employment conditions and promotion opportunities for non-trained auxiliary nurses and carers.

She also became founder and president of the Hackney Community housing association (1978 until her death); national vice president of the Townswomen's Guild (1978–80); a member of the European Commission's Economic and Social Committee (1990–98); a trustee of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (now National Museums Liverpool), and a governor of the British Film Institute (1991–97). These and many more largely community-based organisations benefited enormously from

her spirited commitment – and also from her refusal to suffer fools gladly.

Jocelyn, whose anger against injustice was carefully cloaked beneath an aura of dignified authority, liked to practise what she called "pincher politics", which she once described to me as "a bottom-up/top-down approach, with the purpose of pinching the establishment into action and reform". It was a method that was as psychological and cultural as it was political and educational – a little Machiavellian, perhaps, but always purposeful and often highly successful.

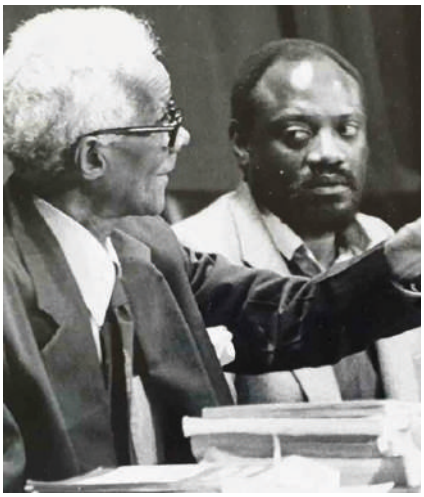
What drove Jocelyn – or "DJB" as she was affectionately known after being made a dame in 1992 – was the belief that she was entitled to be part of a society more equal than the one she had known either in her colonial birthplace or in the Britain of the 60s into which she later emerged.

Above: Dame Joyceln Barrows with broadcaster Moira Stuart. **Photo: Brian Quavar**

In her last major intervention, in 2005, Jocelyn returned to education, the field that was closest to her heart, to head a nationwide consultation commissioned by the United Learning Trust into the role of underperforming would-be Academy schools. She found that the 20 schools that she studied were in various degrees discriminatory on the grounds of race, and concluded that a new and inclusive approach needed to be adopted. She retired in 2013.

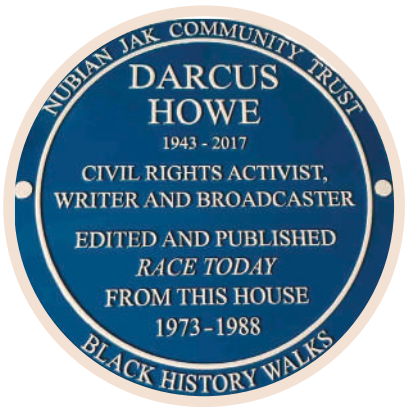
In 1970 Jocelyn married Henderson Downer, a barrister and later a Jamaican appeal court judge who retired in 2004. For most of their long marriage they lived between the UK and Jamaica, enjoying their independence, separation, and togetherness in equal measure; Henderson coming to London for Christmas, Easter and a month in the summer while Jocelyn went to Jamaica from January to March. She is survived by Henderson and by two nieces, Christine and Leslie Anne, whom she raised at her home in Bloomsbury, central London.

Jocelyn Anita Barrow, race relations campaigner and teacher, born April 15, 1929; died April 9, 2020.



Above: CLR James and Darcus Howe working in the Railton Road building. **Photo: BBC.**
The unveiled Blue plaque for Darcus Howe. **At right: Photo: brixtonblog.com**

DARCUS HOWE HONOURED WITH BLUE PLAQUE



On January 4th, 2022, the Nubian Jak Community Trust (NJCT) honoured the late Darcus Howe, civil rights activist, writer and broadcaster with a blue plaque. The historic plaque was unveiled at 167 Railton Road, Brixton and sponsored by Black History Walk. The location, which is currently home to the Brixton Advice Centre, was previously the office of the Race Today Collective in the 1970s.

Mr. Howe, co-founded the 'Race Today Collective' in 1958. Between 1973-88, the ground-breaking Race Today journal was at the epicentre of the struggle for racial justice in Britain, highlighting the limitless opportunities and impacts campaigning journalism can have.

With the struggle against police racism and brutality currently happening across the world, it is vital that young activists learn about the recent history of Black Radicalism in Britain, including the Black Radical press, in order to harness the revolutionary potential of the media in the fight for racial justice.

Between 1973 and 1988, the Race Today journal and its collective of writers passionately fought police brutality, challenged racist institutions and, by adopting intersectional politics, linked the experiences of Black communities in Britain with other struggles to illustrate the interconnectedness of race, sex and class exploitation.

Mr. Howe, who was born in Trinidad and Tobago, arrived in Britain in 1961 and became a seasoned writer and key figure in history across many major movements including the Black Panthers, to the Brixton Uprisings of '81 and the Mangrove 9 which was later televised in the United Kingdom as a part of an anthology on BBC by Steve McQueen.

Edited from https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/listings/region/brixton/darcus-howe-plaque-unveiling-black-history-walks

Pictured: Lincoln Rahamut was recognised for his Achievements in Arts at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony in 2012. **Photo David Kalloo**

REMEMBERING LINCOLN RAHAMUT – KING OF NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL (1946 – 2020)

written by **DAVID KALLOO**

The carnival community in the United Kingdom - and more specifically, Notting Hill Carnival - has lost a great carnival son; Lincoln Rahamut. The passing of Lincoln Rahamut on Sunday 31st May has left a void in London's Notting Hill Carnival community.

Lincoln was a pioneer in the development of costume designing at Notting Hill Carnival. In 1992 Lincoln launched Masquerade 2000 and changed the concept of carnival costumes at Notting Hill Carnival, a trend that transcended across Britain and Europe. Without a doubt, Lincoln was the King of carnival costume design at London's Notting Hill Carnival. One carnival official described Lincoln as "one of the best carnival artistic director in Europe". Lincoln's contribution to Notting Hill Carnival arrived at the right moment to catapult carnival into a new realm of colour, movement, dance; incorporating the spirit of carnival directly into his creations.

Lincoln and Masquerade 2000 set a benchmark that all other UK carnival bands followed. He rivalled the Trinidadian designers who journeyed from the land of carnival to create costumes for other local bands at Notting Hill Carnival. Lincoln didn't just set standards, he created opportunities for the younger generation of carnival costume designers in the UK. By doing so, many of the London carnival groups were no longer dependent on importing designers from Trinidad, and thus spawned a new generation. For more than a decade, the Notting Hill Carnival stage belonged to Lincoln Rahamut and Masquerade 2000. He attracted European participation into Notting Hill Carnival, which continues to this day. Arriving from Trinidad in 1970 Lincoln embraced his carnival roots from his country of birth and began weaving his brand of carnival costume designing culture into the fabric of British society, where carnival had already been established. In 1976 Lincoln started Perpetual Beauty Mas Band, which won him accolades across Britain and Europe. Lincoln's vision was for something bigger, something outstanding, something that would change the face of costume designing and presentation thus, Masquerade

Pictured: Lincoln Rahamut making costumes for Notting Hill Carnival mas band Mas Arts. **Photo Ravi Lloyd | LargeUp.com**

2000 was launched 1992. Lincoln was the quiet giant of carnival: he seldom hugged the limelight, often choosing to stay in the mas camp working on deadlines and tapping into his creativity while others partied. Lincoln, like most Trinidadians coming to the UK, already had carnival in his blood. His father was an accomplished tailor and his mum a seamstress; both working in the carnival industry back in South Trinidad. He garnered print and sign-making skills at a family department store in South Trinidad. He honed these acquired skills and incorporated them into his ability to design and create stunning carnival costumes. Such was his creativity and vision, Lincoln created disability-inclusive designs that allowed even more people to engage with carnival. He created costumes so people in wheelchairs were able be part of the masquerade parade at Notting Hill Carnival and wherever Masquerade 2000 participated in carnivals across Britain.

Having left Trinidad to build a new life in the United Kingdom, Lincoln never turned his back on Trinidad. He maintained close links with the carnival community in his home country and supported carnival groups there. Lincoln's flair, creativity, and vision for costume designing came up against the big guns of carnival at the World King and Queen of Carnival competition held in Trinidad; where he helped to secure third place for the UK at the prestigious event. Lincoln's work in the carnival industry opened avenues for others to tread. His designs appeared on the famed London Fashion Week, and he had carnival costumes displayed in museums and exhibitions across Britain including the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington and the British Council in Islington. Having resigned from Masquerade 2000, Lincoln launched his own company Mas Art. He continued to serve the carnival community across the UK through consultancy and became involved with education of carnival designing through schools, university and television production. He worked alongside the Isle of Wight carnival and was a design consultant for many carnival bands at Notting Hill. Lincoln had an open door to everyone who sought advice, help, and direction. His passing is a huge loss of talent in the corridors of Notting Hill Carnival. The legacy he created is unrivalled and his original influences

into the carnival arts and development are, without a doubt, indelible in carnival history. Anyone who knew Lincoln would confirm he was one of the humblest of people one would ever encounter. He never allowed things to faze him, and always saw solutions rather than problems. Dexter Khan, founder of Cocoyea Mas Band said, "Lincoln was a great friend and his talent, creativity and immense contribution to carnival will be sorely missed". Pax Nindi, director at Global Carnival, who began writing a book to celebrate the legendary designer remembers Lincoln's words to him, "You should celebrate death and not be afraid of it". Lincoln Rahamut, a great artisan, carnival designer extraordinaire – King of Notting Hill Carnival. Lincoln Rahamut is survived by Carol Rahamut, his daughters Sally Ann Nurse, Sarah-Jane Rufus and grandchildren.

WALTHAM FOREST HERITAGE
Lincoln 'Links' Rahamut
1946-2020
The undisputed 'King of Sequins'
A great artisan, Artistic Director and carnival extraordinaire.
Worked in the community to teach carnival arts

Pictured: The family of Lincoln Rahamut, with the Cllr Elizabeth Baptiste, Mayor of Waltham Forest, Cllr Paul Douglas, Cllr Louise Mitchell, and Stella Creasy, MP for Walthamstow accept a commemorative plaque which was unveiled on 20th February, 2022 for his contributions. **Photo: London Borough of Waltham Forest**

BARBARA ASSOON, ACTRESS AND BROADCASTER (1929 – 2020)

written by **DOMINIC KALIPERSAD**

Barbara Assoon was the actress turned radio announcer who set the standard for local broadcasters. Known for her diction and elocution, she was part of the media landscape for more than forty years. Assoon was a star personality at Radio Trinidad which she joined in the heydays of radio celebrities like Bob Gittens, June Gonzalves and Pat Mathura. That, however, was after a theatre career in England.

Pictured: Barbara Assoon. **Photo news.gov.tt**

Born in Port-of-Spain in 1929, Assoon began her theatre experience in the mid-1940s. She was a dancer and choreographer, and a foundation member of Beryl McBurnie's Little Carib Theatre. One of her pieces was mounted by dancer Astor Johnson. In 1948, Assoon had a role in a production of Peter Ustinov's play 'The Indifferent Shepherd'. Later, she received a British Council scholarship to study acting in England, choosing the Bristol Old Vic school.

In the 1950s, she performed in stage productions, radio soap operas, films, and live TV dramas. In 1958, she played Rosa in Errol John's play "Moon On a Rainbow Shawl" at the Royal Court Theatre. Assoon's first TV role was Tituba in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" (ITV, tx. 3/11/1959), opposite a young Sean Connery as Proctor.

Other roles included Eliza in television 'Play of the Week "South"' (24/11/1959), Dolly Green in the Drama '61 'The Big Pride' (ITV, tx. 28/5/1961) and a brief part in serial drama "Outbreak of Murder" (BBC, 1962). In 1963, she appeared on "Coronation Street" as Mrs Alexander (the wife of bus conductor Johnny).

While working on BBC radio dramas, she worked with other West Indian actors, among them Basdeo Panday who would years later become T&T's prime minister. In 1965, she was in in John Hopkins' controversial drama "Fable" (BBC), alongside Rudolph Walker (Trinidad), Carmen Munroe (Guyana), and Trevor Rhone (Jamaica). In 1966, she played a nurse in "Georgy Girl", with Alan Bates, Lynn Redgrave and Charlotte Rampling. After the death of her English husband, an accountant, Assoon found it hard to balance working as an actress, which required working in different cities, while raising a son.

In 1968, Assoon returned to Trinidad, hoping to do current affairs television but was offered to do ad magazines. She made a proposal to Radio Trinidad to produce radio plays. Instead, she was auditioned for an announcer position. Assoon went back and forth between Port-of-Spain and London before finally settling down at Radio Trinidad as a news reporter and programme presenter

Her last stage role was in a 1990 London production of Derek Walcott's "Remembrance", alongside the late Norman Beaton. In 1999, she was given a Service Recognition Award for media excellence. In 2012, she was the recipient of the Trinidad and Tobago Publishers and Broadcasters Association (TTPBA) Media Excellence Award. After she retired, Assoon provided training services to young reporters and announcers, many of whom are making their mark on the current media landscape.

Pictured: Althea McNish. **Photo: Derek Tadema**

ALTHEA MCNISH DESIGNER (1925 – 2020)

written by **KEINO SWAMBER**

Iconic fabric designer Althea McNish died on April 16, 2020 in a nursing home in London. She was 95.

A release from Courtney McNish, chairman of the Merikin Commission said McNish had been ill since 2018 after her husband, John Weiss, died.

She made a significant impact on the international fashion industry, with clients such as Cardin, Dior, Schiaparelli, Givenchy and Lanvin. Liberty's, the famous department store in London, carried clothes with her fabric designs such as Cebollas (1958) and Hibiscus (1958).

Her 1959 prints Tropic and Giselle were in fashion magazines across Europe. When Queen Elizabeth II visited Trinidad in 1966, McNish designed fabrics for that official wardrobe.

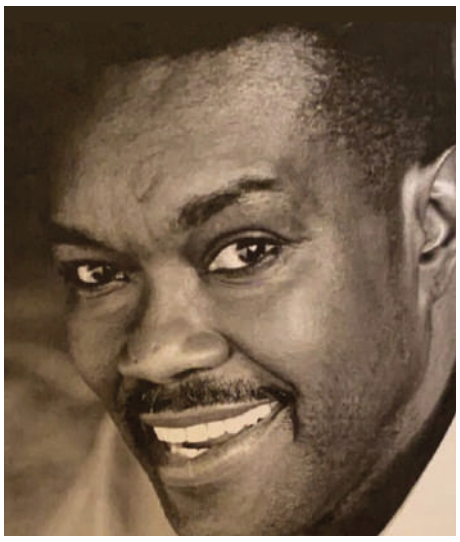
McNish, one of the Merikin community from the company villages in south Trinidad, went to the London School of Printing and Graphic Arts, the Central School of Arts and Design and the Royal College of Art.

She was the first Caribbean woman and black textile designer to achieve international prominence.

Her work can be found at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Whitworth Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture and the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.

In 1976 she was awarded the Chaconia Medal Gold for her contributions to art and design and an honorary doctorate of fine arts from the University of TT in 2006.

Edited from https://newsday.co.tt/2020/04/17/designer-althea-mcnish-dies/



Pictured: Earl Anthony Chrysostom.
Photo: Khadejah Chrysostom

THE PASSING OF EARL ANTHONY CHRYSOSTOM, ACTOR (1946 – 2021)

written by **DOMINIC.KALIPERSAD**

Growing up in his hometown San Juan in the 1940s and '50s, Earl Anthony Chrysostom had the good looks of a movie star. He'd walk past the Gem, Globe and Sanz cinemas near the Croisee, not knowing that his future would be on the silver screens.

Chrysostom was born at Mission Road on January 11, 1946, not far from Gem cinema on Saddle Road and Sanz on Railway Road.

He thought he'd have a career in the military, So, at age 18, he moved to London, England, to join the British Royal Air Force. He served in the RAF for four years as a Paratrooper soldier.

It was during his time in London that Chrysostom developed a appreciation of and passion for the Arts. He embraced the world of theatre and pursued training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Chrysostom eventually moved to the United States then Canada where he established a new career in film and television as a screen actor. His talents as well as his tall, strong physique and dazzling smile helped him build an impressive resumé and work with several famous actors.

He is known for his work on Shadow Center (1995), PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal (1996), The Planet of Junior Brown (1997), The Boondock Saints (1999), Deceived (2002), and The John Dore Television Show (2009).

Chrysostom passed away in his sleep, while in Grenada, on Tuesday April 13, 2021. He was married to American singer Doris Troy of the hit song Just One Look, then Ms Zorida Chrysosthom from which union brought three children.

Pictured: Alvin Chy-Quene. **Photo courtesy The-Latest.com**

T&T'S SECOND WORLD WAR RAF VETERAN ALVIN CHYQ-UENE (1929 - 2021)

written by **MARC WADSWORTH**

Trinidad and Tobago Second World War veteran Alvin Chy-Quene, who joined the RAF in the spring of 1944 in his homeland as a teenager, died in hospital aged 94, on January 3 2020, after a short illness. “Chy”, as he was known, was featured in two films made by Deborah Hobson and, Divided by race, united in war and peace, for the-latest.com and the BBC’s Fighting for King and Empire, Britain’s Caribbean heroes. Both looked at the lives of Caribbean servicemen like Chy-Quene and my late Jamaican father, during and after the Second World War, and how they handled being in the military and civilian Britain, tackling racism along the way. They did both with courage, fortitude and good humour. Chy-Quene, star of the launch of the-latest.com’s Livingmemorial.org.uk website at Brixton’s Black Cultural Archives in the UK in 2019, was particularly witty. He was one of the last surviving veterans whose untold stories are showcased on the website.

Not much is known about his early life except that he was born in Port of Spain and had Chinese origin on his father’s side. A year before the end of the war, Chy-Quene boarded a troop ship in Port of Spain, Trinidad, that took him to Jamaica for three days, where it collected more "last batch" volunteers bound for Britain. They sailed in a convoy that included British submarines and destroyers, to break through the blockade of deadly German U-boats that circled the Caribbean. Trinidad had a hugely strategically important oil refinery that supplied vital fuel for the British war effort, the reason for Germany's intent on neutralising it.

Chy-Quene and the other Caribbean volunteers eventually disembarked at Greenock, Glasgow, in Scotland. They were transferred to an RAF training camp in Wiltshire, south England, where Qhy-Quene met fellow Trinidadian (then) flight lieutenant Ulric Cross, who went on to be the most decorated Caribbean serviceman of the war. They became close friends. I remember Chy-Quene speaking fondly to me about a visit he paid to Cross in Trinidad not long before the retired RAF squadron leader died in October 2013.

Chy Quene served "all over” Britain, doing ground crew jobs like loading munitions on to Spitfire, Hurricane and Halifax aircraft. When arriving in Britain, it was the first time he had come across “rough looking” white men with tattoos, as he described them. It was a bit of a culture shock because previously the only white men he had seen were smart, colonial officials who ran his country. At the time, British men were not well informed about black people before the Caribbeans joined the war effort. Chy-Quene recalls how some of the white troops thought he and his Caribbean comrades lived in trees. He recalled in my film how he would often play along with the absurd idea and the white men would believe him. Also, when he was speaking in a Caribbean dialect among his compatriots, which Englishmen didn’t understand, the Englishmen asked what language they were speaking. Chy-Quene quipped, mockingly: "Algebra." When Chy-Quene was serving in the war, he and other Trinidadians sang calypso songs with lyrics against Hitler and demanded the Nazi leader should leave the British Empire alone.

After the war Mr. Chy-Quene was sent to Germany as a military guard at Spandau Prison, where the notorious Rudolf Hess, Hitler’s former deputy, was imprisoned.

When Mr. Chy-Quene left the RAF, he stayed in Germany, where he learnt the language, and became part of a team that performed post mortems and trained as pathologists. He was an active member of the Clapham-based West Indian Ex-Servicemen and Women’s Association, and its successor the West Indian Association of Service Personnel (WASP), as well as the Royal British Legion and RAF Association.

The Rev Marcia DaCosta, ex-chaplain of WASP, who visited Mr. Chy-Quene in a care home and then hospital before he died, said: “Chy was a funny and very interesting person to know. He loved life and loved to travel and had friends in many parts of the world.”

Pictured: Veterans Alvin Chy-Quene, seated left, Capt Paul Chambers and Allan Wilmot, seated.

Photo courtesy The-Latest.com

TRADE MISSION LAUNCHED – **FASHIONTT'S METAVERSE A SUCCESS!**

Above: FashionTT Virtual Trade Mission lobby area. **At right:** Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon addressing FashionTT's Virtual Fashion Trade Mission, Lisa-Marie-Daniel-General-Manager-FashionTT and Mr. Andrew Ramroop OBE, Maurice Sedwell Brand. **Photos courtesy Fashion TT**

Port of Spain, 25th March 2022: The Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Company Limited (FashionTT) in collaboration with Cardinal Services and exporTT, hosted its very first Virtual Fashion Trade Mission (VFTM) on Friday 25th March. A fashion metaverse was created to house a fashion showcase, designer booths, testimonials and more; creating an exciting virtual space for guests from all parts of the world to explore and experience.

The Showcase opened with an address by FashionTT's General Manager, Lisa-Marie Daniel: "We will be hosting 2 Virtual Trade Missions annually presenting the work of our sector to local and international audiences for the purpose of building awareness, developing buyer and consumer relationships and to accordingly continue to bolster revenues in this sector. We are pleased to have partnered with our fellow state agency exporTT and Houston Consultancy Cardinal Services LLC in making this event a reality. The state-of-the-art 3D platform you are navigating through today will be online for 6 months from today! Therefore, the public will have the opportunity to peruse, order and purchase from our designers within an extended timeframe."

Also speaking at the opening was Jason Lindsay, Chairman, FashionTT; Dhanraj Harrypersad, General Manager, Client Services, exporTT; Dr. Sabeeta Bidasie Singh, CEO, Cardinal Services and Solutions; Andrew Ramroop OBE, CreativeDirector, Maurice Sedwell Brand; Richard Young, Forum Facilitator and other fashion industry and business professionals.

Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry, has, once again, shown her support of FashionTT and its efforts with this venture: "I am truly pleased to be a part of today's launch of the First Virtual Fashion Tradeshow and Exhibition… Designer profiles will be available on the Virtual Exhibition platform, designed to match the Caribbean Aesthetics, welcoming guests with the sounds of Soca Music and cultural images that showcase the identity and soul of Trinidad and Tobago. Fashion brands that had more flexible and digitally enabled product-to-market processes were better positioned to pivot and get the right product to consumers as demand shifted. I would therefore like to commend FashionTT for its foresight and execution of strategic initiatives such as this virtual trade show, which allows local fashion entrepreneurs to bolster their commercial and export capability using online tools."

One of the main features within FashionTT's Metaverse is the designer booths. Within the booth, users have the ability to interact with any of FashionTT's 11 Global Value Chain (GVC) designers, The 1ndividual Aesthetic, The Cloth, Meiling, Charu Lochan Dass, Heather Jones, J. Angelique, Claudia Pegus, The Hideout Clothing, Genesis Swimwear, Neha Karina and Ecliff Elie. Users cand select a designer, view their image catalogue, watch their promo video, download a brochure, request a meeting or chat with them in real time.

"We invite you to step into the FashionTT's Metaverse and see what Trinidad and Tobago's fashion has to offer. Visit the designers, check out our fashion showcase to know more about what we do and immerse yourself in this exciting virtual experience that was made possible by FashionTT, Cardinal Services and exporTT." – Lisa-Marie Daniel.

To explore the FashionTT Metaverse, which will be open for 6 months from launch, visit https://fashionevent.virtex.in. To keep up-to-date in what's happening with FashionTT, follow the Facebook and Instagram pages: @fashionoftt.

REVITALISING THE COCOA INDUSTRY – INVESTT AND EU DELEGATION MAKE STRIDES

Above: Cocoa beans and pods**, Photo: InvesTT, Below:** His Excellency Peter Cavendish, Ambassador – Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago, **Photo: Facebook.com/EUinTandT**

Under the theme "Exploring Opportunities in a Fine/ Flavour Cocoa Paradise", InvesTT, in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago, launched the Trinitario Cocoa Webinar Series with over 400 participants from Europe, United Kingdom, USA, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Held on Wednesday 16 February, 2022, Episode 1 and Wednesday 25 May, 2022, Episode 2 of the three-part webinar series sought to stimulate investment, innovation and entrepreneurship across the cocoa value chain, through mutually beneficial partnerships between local cocoa stakeholders and European investors.

Trinidad and Tobago Government Support

Delivering her remarks, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry reaffirmed Government's commitment to revitalize the cocoa industry and strengthen commercial relations with the European Union (EU). Minister Gopee-Scoon stated, "Government is providing the necessary support and incentives to ensure a sustainable and viable cocoa industry that is locally based and internationally renowned."

She urged chocolatiers interested in operating in Trinidad and Tobago to take up some of the existing incentives that are being offered to agro-processors in this country under ExporTT. These include the Research & Development Fund which assisted the Montserrat Cocoa Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited to secure the first Geographical Indication in Trinidad and Tobago.

Grant Fund facilities, co-financing facililites, export trading programs and the Export Booster Initiative are also available for agro-processors to expand output, increase exports and grow competitiveness. Cocoa investors were also encouraged to take advantage of the land availability for agro-processing at e TecK's Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park.

Minister Gopee-Scoon endorsed the webinar series initiative and highlighted that it will "set the stage for further engagement in respect of joint ventures and investment opportunities to build on the unique strengths and successes of Trinidad and Tobago's cocoa industry."

Private Sector Investment and Involvement

With a rich culture of cocoa cultivation dating back to the 18th century and Trinidad and Tobago's globally renowned reputation for producing some of the world's best fine/flavour cocoa, the twin-island Republic is now presented with a unique opportunity to package its history and superior Trinitario cocoa beans to supply the growing demand of quality cocoa by foreign markets.

Senator the Honourable Clarence Rambharat, the [then] Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries expressed that private sector investment and involvement is necessary in the revitalisation of T&T's cocoa industry "from a modern approach to plant selection in the development of new fields to value-added techonology."

He praised the work of the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre, a project funded by the EU in 2015 and set up to create model farms and processing facilities to advance the cocoa industry. "Even though we grow the best bean, what we do with the bean in terms of drying, processing and readiness for export, affects its marketability and price in addition to the quality of the final value-added chocolate product."

Collaborating with the European Union

His Excellency Peter Cavendish, Ambassador – Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago spoke with pride about the EU's 45-year commitment to Trinidad and Tobago's cocoa industry saying "it's been a joint labour of love to promote Trinidad and Tobago's cocoa." Apart from market access via the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, areas of EU support include the development

of the world's largest genebank (International Cocoa Genebank, Trinidad), the world's oldest Cocoa Research Centre at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, the support for Small and Medium Enterprises to meet EU standards and support for the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute.

The EU is CARICOM's second-largest cocoa market. During his presentation, the EU Ambassador highlighted that the market value of the global cocoa industry stands at circa €115 billion, with half of all cocoa consumed by Europeans. "EU consumers will pay a premium to have the world's best cocoa and Trinidad and Tobago's cocoa is without any doubt the best in the world." He went on to state that there is a value investment opportunity as "post Covid-19, this key sector will allow for premium product exports to gain foreign currency by satisfying quality consumers."

Commenting on the EU Deforestation Regulation which came into effect in November 2021, the EU Ambassador encouraged European investors to consider cocoa cultivation opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago's indigenous forests or abandoned estates. The impact of the legislation is that companies will have to prove that their products have not contributed to the destruction of forests before entering European markets.

Cocoa Research Centre

Cocoa Research Centre – Support for Entrepreneurs

Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, Director, Cocoa Research Centre at the University of the West Indies took a deep dive into the innovative research that can be accessed by investors to support businesses along the entire value chain. Local and foreign investors can utilise the expertise of the Cocoa Research Centre and services of the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre to better position their business for success and efficiency along the value chain. Cocoa entrepreneurs have access to training programmes inclusive of apprenticeship training, masterclass sessions in chocolate making and business support through business and technology incubators, among others.

Prof. Umaharan highlighted the Centre's strategy to attract investors through the comprehensive mapping of agro-ecological zones – a cluster of 44 cocoa-growing communities being recorded for soil quality, nutritional profiles, climate conditions, risks, potential and constraints. He said "being a small country, we can become the model for cocoa industries around the world."

investTT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

InvesTT – Ready to Assist Investors

Franka Costelloe, Chairman, InvesTT itemised some of the cocoa investment opportunities that can be pursued as joint ventures for local and international investors. These include:

The development of a chocolate manufacturing factory to produce branded speciality chocolates targeting the global niche market.

The development and commercialization of a state of the art cocoa innovation laboratory to support the growth of the fine or flavour cocoa industry.

The regional and international commercialisation and distribution of cocoa varieties.

Investment in Agro-tourism projects.

Sekou Alleyne, President, InvesTT expressed the readiness of the agency to lead the charge in facilitating prospective local and international cocoa investors, with the aim to generate foreign exchange and revitalise a financially viable and sustainable cocoa industry in Trinidad and Tobago. Noting that InvesTT is responsible for promoting tenancy at some of the state's industrial parks, he encouraged agro-processors to take full advantage of the industrial space being offered for lease at e TecK's Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park as an ideal location for their investment.

For more information on investing in Trinidad and Tobago's cocoa industry, visit www.investt.co.tt

Edited from http://www.investt.co.tt/news-and-events/revitalizing-the-cocoa-in/index.xml

OUR HERO RETURNS HOME

written by **SHILOH PR**

HERO, the film which swept the UK in 2019, based on the Extraordinary Life and Times of Mr. Ulric Cross is finally going home!

The Frances-Anne Solomon film made its long awaited return to Trinidad and Tobago, with a Gala Red Carpet Screening on 7 April, 2022 at CinemaOne's Gemstones and IMAX theatres. Republic Bank Limited was the Platinum and Presenting Sponsor of the Gala.

The film, inspired by the remarkable and adventurous

Pictured: HERO film screening at CinemaOne's Gemstones and IMAX theatres, Trinidad and Tobago. **Photo: Facebook.com/HERO4ALLTIME**

life of Justice Cross, created a buzz in Hollywood in 2020, when it opened the prestigious Pan African Film and Arts Festival. This came on the heels of a heady and successful 40-city tour of the UK, along with screenings in Durban, the US and at the Bell TIFF Lighthouse in Canada.

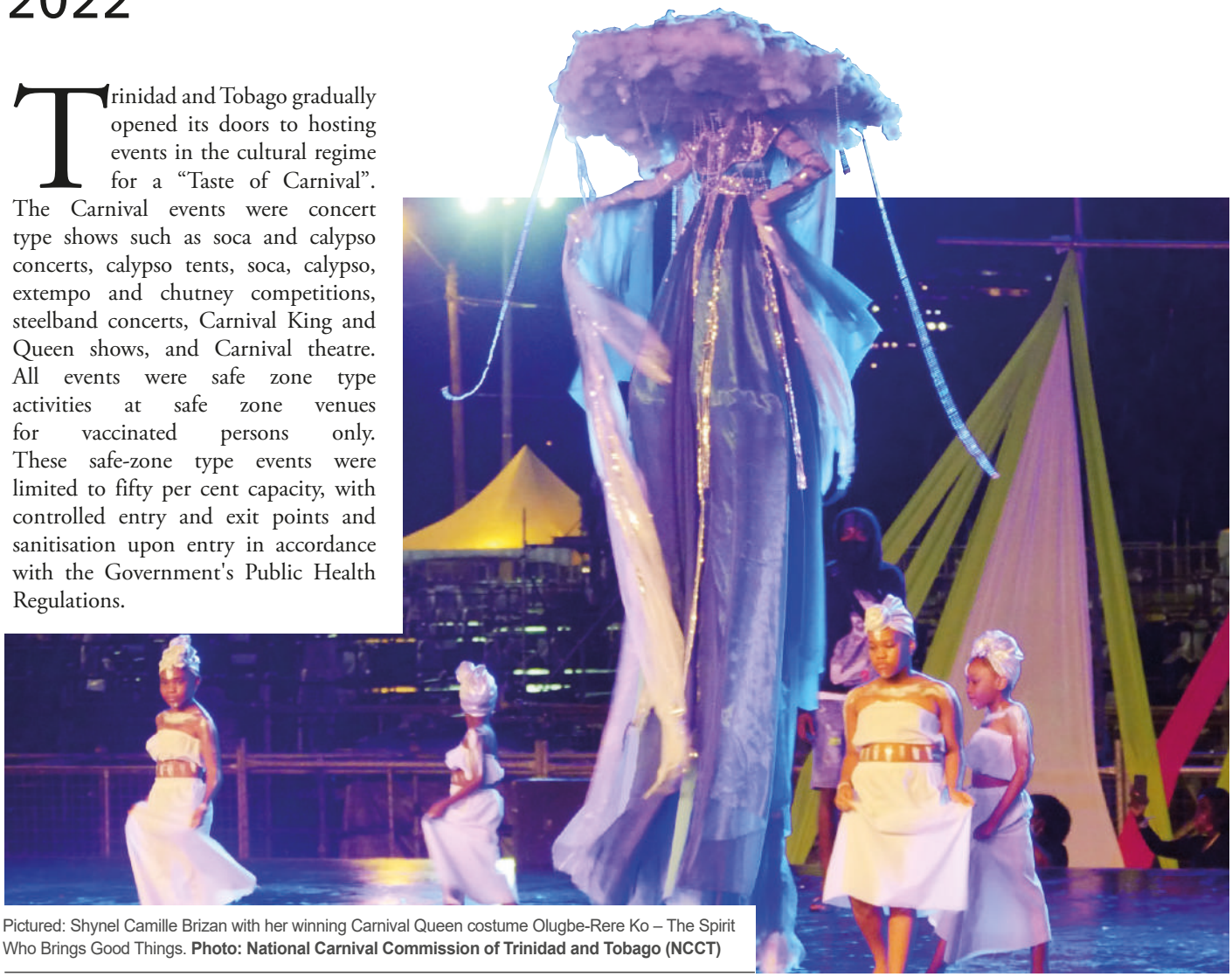
Plans for a Trinidad and Tobago theatrical release and Red Carpet gala scheduled for May 2020, had to be shelved due to the pandemic explained the film's Director, Frances-Anne Solomon, "we had to switch gears immediately and build on the momentum that existed…everyone wanted the film. I felt so pleased to see the reaction of people from all walks of life around the world."

HERO was produced by Caribbeantales Media Group and Imagine Media International Limited with support from Telefilm Canada.

Above: Ms Lisa Wickham, Executive Producer, Mr. Nickolai Salcedo, Lead Actor, Ms Frances-Anne Solomon, Director and Mr. Rudolph Walker MBE, **At left:** HERO - Extraordinary Life and Times of Mr. Ulric Cross world tour poster. **Photos: Facebook.com/HERO4ALLTIME**

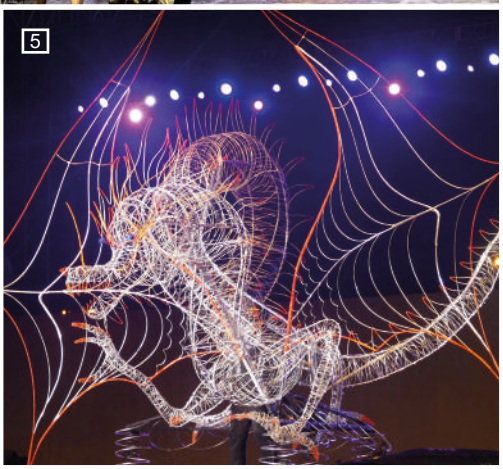
TASTE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CARNIVAL 2022

Trinidad and Tobago gradually opened its doors to hosting events in the cultural regime for a "Taste of Carnival". The Carnival events were concert type shows such as soca and calypso concerts, calypso tents, soca, calypso, extempo and chutney competitions, steelband concerts, Carnival King and Queen shows, and Carnival theatre. All events were safe zone type activities at safe zone venues for vaccinated persons only. These safe-zone type events were limited to fifty per cent capacity, with controlled entry and exit points and sanitisation upon entry in accordance with the Government's Public Health Regulations.



Pictured: Shynel Camille Brizan with her winning Carnival Queen costume Olugbe-Rere Ko – The Spirit Who Brings Good Things. **Photo: National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (NCCT)**

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
'A TASTE OF CARNIVAL' 2022
PICTORIAL



Pictured: 1) Blue Devils at the gates to Carnival City, Queens Park Savanah, **Photo: Carnival Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (CITT), 2)** Joseph Lewis Kreegorseth with his winning Carnival King costume Mystic Guardian of the Amazons, **3)** Erron Sookdeo - From the Belly of the Earth Rise the Pheonix, **4)** Franklyn Jagdeo - A Ray of Hope, **Photos: NCCT, 5)** Raymond Mark - Historical a tribute to Bharatanatyam "an expression of music, rhythm & dance", **Photo: CITT, 6)** Proman Starlift Steel Orchestra, **7)** Carib Skiffle Steel Orchestra, **8)** NLCB Fonclaire Steel Orchestra, **Photos: Pan Trinbago , 10 - 12)** Winston 'Gypsy' Peters, Reigning Young King – Addelon Braveboy ``Banjela '', Drupatee, **Photos: CITT.**

TOBAGO CARNIVAL SET FOR OCTOBER 2022

Above: A firebreather entertains passerby in downtown Scarborough during Carnival 2019. **Below:** This young speech band performs in the streets of Scarborough (2020). **Photos: Tobago House of Assembly**

The traditional February date for 2022 Carnival may have passed Tobago by without fanfare, but the island will be celebrating Carnival this year - from October 28th to 30th.

Secretary of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation Councillor Tashia Burris said the first steps have already been taken to bring this event to fruition.

"The Carnival in Tobago is a new concept in terms of what is happening now. It's one of the new activities that this administration has planned to boost our tourism product. There is a committee in place, the committee has to do its work, so that committee is charged with the responsibility of crafting what this Carnival looks like," Councillor Burris said.

Secretary Burris believes the October Carnival has great potential.

"We're very confident that the persons on the committee will be able to bring the necessary expertise. They bring that to the table. They bring the support of the stakeholders to the table. And we want people to embrace the concept of the Tobago Carnival as what it is intended to be, which is a profit-earning activity to boost tourism, especially in October," she said.

The Tourism Secretary said the month of October generally has low uptake in terms of domestic travel. She said Carnival in October could bring in much-needed foreign exchange.

Councillor Burris said for October Carnival to standout, it must display innovation and creativity.

"Tourism is one of the pillars of our economy and part of that is ensuring that we have activities that are going to get people on the island. That's the purpose behind this Carnival," she said.

A 15-member Tobago Carnival Committee is headed by chairman Meisha Trim, and includes Mr. Christoph Roberts, Ms Anya Elias and Mr. David Maharaj. There will also be representatives from the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited, Tobago Festivals Commission Limited and the local Carnival fraternity

The Committee, which will operate for six months, was announced by Secretary of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation, Councillor Tashia Burris, on Monday (May 16th).

Chief Secretary-Tobago Hon. Farley Augustine also outlined his vision for the committee during an interview on Monday's (May 16th) Tobago Updates morning show. He said various Carnival stakeholders are on board to help make the inaugural October Carnival a success.

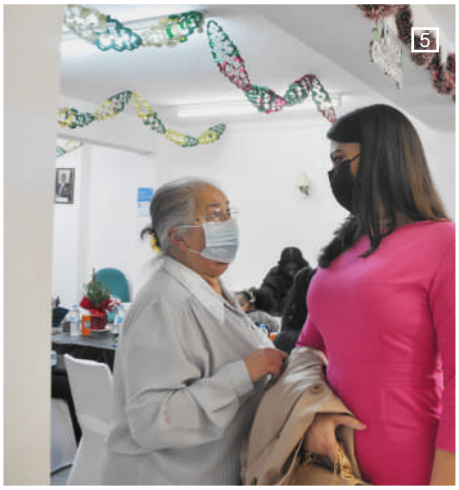
"We've asked to sit at the table with those core [Committee] members, a representative for mas, pan, and calypso, and we've also asked the chair of the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited (TTAL) board to sit there, so that the conversation is well-rounded. And that we will always have… the three major elements of Carnival present in the conversations and the planning.

"And two, we have our main tourism agency being there to ensure that that is in sight, because October really represents the start of that peak season in terms of tourism, and we don't want to lose sight of that potential."

Edited from https://www.tha.gov.tt/info-hub/carnival-confidence/

Pictured: Mrs Victoria Busby OBE, Ms Kim Malone, Teaching Assistant, High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul at a visit to Orleans Primary School, Twickenham where High Commissioner Dhanpaul spoke to the students about Trinidad and Tobago.

Pictured: 1) High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul being welcomed by nationals at the Tobago Residents UK Christmas Party and Fundraiser held on Saturday 4th December 2021 at St Judes with St Aidan Church hall in Thornton Heath**, 2)** A cross section of the attendees to Tobago Residents UK (TR-UK) Christmas Party and Fundraiser, **3)** High Commissioner Dhanpaul purchasing some of the many items available for sale at TR-UK Christmas Party and Fundraiser with a portion of sales going to a designated charity in Tobago, **4)** High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul and Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul with the association board members of TR-UK, **5)** Mrs Rosalind Phillips McMillan, Secretary, TR-UK presenting a gift hamper to Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul.



Pictured: 1) Tobago Crusoe with High Commissioner Dhanpaul at the Trinidad and Tobago Association UK (TTAUK) Christmas Reception held on 7th Decemeber, 2021 at the TTAUK Association House in London, **2)** Mrs Alison Lawther, Cllr Adam Jogee, Mayor of Haringey, Dr. Michaelene Holder-March, Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul and High Commissioner Vishnu Dhnapaul**, 3** High Commissioner Dhanpaul addressing the attendees at TTAUK Christmas Reception, **4)** Mrs Lena Hartley one of the longest serving member of the TTAUK, **5)** Sister Monica Tywang chatting with Mrs Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul.

Above: *Gang Gang Sarah (2021)* by Bryony Benge-Abbott was one of her artwork on display in her first solo exhibition 'Anima' which ran from 21 April - 5 May 2022, at Campbell's Art Gallery in London, **At right:** Ms Benge-Abbott speaking to High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul about her artwork *Wood Church (2021)*. **Photos courtesy Campbell's Art Gallery**

COURTESY CALL BY TTDF STEEL ORCHESTRA

Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) Steel Orchestra led by Corporal Denalli paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner and staff of the High Commission, London on Friday 6th May 2022.

High Commissioner Dhanpaul welcomed the members of the ten-man contingent with stories of the importance of the steelpan and stated that given that it is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago,"we must continue to claim it as our own."

Pictured: 1) Corporal Denalli, **2)** High Commissioner Dhanpaul speaking with the members of the TTDF Steel Orchestra, **3)** Senior Aircraft Man Keren Prime accompanied by pannist Private Lonaire Joseph performed the song Jerusalema and gave a dance tutorial to High Commission's staff members Mrs Angela Obrien-Judson, Mrs Donna Phillip-Forde and Mrs Beverley Reviero-Awonaya, **4)** High Commissioner Dhanpaul with a TTDF Steel Orchestra contingent.

COURTESY CALL BY SOCA ARTISTE PREDDY

On Friday 20th May 2022 Mr Akeem Chance otherwise known as "Preedy" paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul. Preedy was accompanied by his agent Ms Nicola Reid.

Preedy, one of Trinidad and Tobago's well-known soca artiste, visited the United Kingdom to perform at The Prince of Wales, Brixton, London. He had been planning his first CHANCE event in London, taking his acclaimed show international since 2018. Preedy also spoke about the Non-profit organisation which he founded called Maloney Foundation and the work he is doing to give back to the community that raised him into the success that he had become.

During the meeting, High Commissioner Dhanpaul reminisced on his cultural experiences in Trinidad and Tobago and the importance of soca, calypso and the steelpan on the world stage. He also indicated that he was looking forward to other cultural ambassadors visiting the High Commission and performing in the UK.

Top: High Commissioner Dhanpaul speaking with Ms Nicola Reid and Mr. Akeem 'Preedy' Chance. **At right:** Mr. Akeem 'Preedy' Chance signing the guest book.

Pictured: 1) Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph for UN peacekeepers who lost their lives at the commemoration of the International Day of UN Peacekeeping ceremony on 26th May 2022, at Whitehall in London. **2)** Military, UN practitioners and Diplomatic Corps representatives at the UN Peacekeeping day memorial ceremony, **3)** Lord Tariq Ahmad, Minister for South Asia, North Africa, the United Nations and the Commonwealth at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office with Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Consular and Student Officer, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, **4) (L-R)** Mrs Disha Ragoonath-Ragnuth Second Secretary, High Commission of Mauritius, Ms Jordan Craig, First Secretary, High Commission of Belize, Mrs Renée Claire Lloyd, Counsellor, High Commission of Jamaica, Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission.

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour nearly 4,200 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 135 last year.

Photo: Renée Claire Lloyd

Photo: Royal Air Force

Pictured: 1) Wreaths were laid at the Runnymede Memorial, near Egham, Surrey, on Sunday 22nd May 2022, the Royal Air Force commemorated the men and women from the Commonwealth Air Forces, who lost their lives during the Second World War and have no known grave.

2) A Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster provided a flypast.

3) The RAF memorial designed by Sir Edward Maufe which is dedicated to some 20,458 men and women from across the Commonwealth, who fought for the RAF and allies against Nazi German occupation.

4) Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Consular and Student Officer, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission with Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston CBE ADC, Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Air Force at the post-ceremonial reception.

A PUBLICATION OF THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, LONDON
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